

Ministers force Thatcher into Ford-BL retreat

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Cabinet ministers forced the Prime Minister into a sharp about-turn yesterday, vetoing Ford's takeover talks with BL in a signal and rebellious reassertion of collective cabinet responsibility.

THE TIMES Tomorrow The modern way to woo Roses are red, violets are blue, but today's Valentines are bored stiff with them.

Portfolio There is £4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio competition - double the usual amount because no-one won yesterday.

Farrakhan held at Heathrow Mr Louis Farrakhan, the American black Muslim leader notorious for anti-semitic remarks, arrived at Heathrow from Chicago yesterday intending to fly to Lagos.

Defence anger The Labour Party reacted angrily to American criticisms of its defence policy as the USAF announced that it was withdrawing 24 aircraft and a thousand servicemen from Britain.

Couple jailed A young couple who embarked on a Bonnie and Clyde style series of armed robberies shortly after their wedding have been jailed.

Pound firmer The pound rose more than a cent to \$1.40 as oil prices picked up to \$16.50 a barrel. The sterling index rose 0.3 to 73.9.

Haiti defiance President Duvalier's grip on Haiti appeared weaker as the island's middle-class commercial community refused to carry on with business as usual despite tough government measures.

Fraud trial A senior British EEC official took part in a £1.8 million fraud involving a single counterfeit cheque, the Central Criminal Court was told.

Snow forecast Cold weather yesterday brought confusion to the roads. Persistent frost and more snow showers are forecast.

Actress dies Dandy Nichols, famous for her portrayal of Alf Garnett's wife in the television series Till Death Us Do Part, has died in hospital in London.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Crosswords, Daily Report, Leaders, Letters, Motoring, Parliament, Sale Room, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, etc.



The Prince and Princess of Wales on their way to the ski slopes at the start of their winter holiday in Klosters, Switzerland

MPs call for full Westland papers

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday injected fresh controversy into the Westland affair when he told the Commons defence committee that summaries of key documents provided to it by the Department of Trade and Industry were inadequate.

Dirty hospitals to lose immunity

By Richard Evans and Nicholas Timmins National Health Service hospitals with unhygienic and infested kitchens will soon no longer be immune from criminal prosecution.

Hope for exports boost

Russia trade plan agreed by Britain

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent Britain and the Soviet Union yesterday announced a new long-term economic and industrial co-operation programme which the Government said should help British firms to win exports worth billions of pounds into the next decade.

Murdoch wins injunction against union

The High Court yesterday granted an injunction to News Group Newspapers against the union Sogat 82 over the printing of the News of the World in Manchester.

Channel deal

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand will sign the Channel Tunnel treaty in the Chapter House of Canterbury Cathedral next Wednesday.

Peres vow to avenge terrorism

Mr Shimon Peres threatened yesterday to strike back hard if there were any terrorist attacks against Israel.

£2.3bn Distillers bid

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More than a butt of sack for the poet

From Michael Binyon Washington America will soon have its first poet laureate. President Reagan has signed the decree, and within a few weeks a federal verifier-at-large is to be chosen, available for inaugurations, Independence Day celebrations, the erection of monuments, launching of ships and diverse other auspicious occasions sufficiently momentous to be rendered immortal.

Strike follows leak at N-plant

By Peter Davenport and Pearce Wright Eight hundred construction workers at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant walked out on strike yesterday in protest at the handling of the escape of radioactive plutonium mist.

Parliament 4 Leading article 13 working normally, although staff had been instructed to wear protective face masks as a precaution against contamination.

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US official's attack on unilateralism angers Labour Party

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Labour Party reacted angrily yesterday to criticisms of its defence policy by Mr Richard Perle, United States Assistant Defence Secretary.

The moves came as it was announced that 24 military aircraft and about 1,000 Servicemen are to be withdrawn from Britain by the United States Air Force beginning in the spring of next year.

In a lecture delivered in London on Wednesday evening, Mr Perle said the Labour Party's policy of "aggressive unilateralism" had almost unique potential for the destruction of the Atlantic security relationships.

He said other differences could be accommodated, "but something as fundamental as the unilateralism of the British Labour Party seems to me the only threat that I can imagine that could lead to the sort of divergence that could destroy the integrity and the effectiveness of the Atlantic Alliance".

He thought, however, that it was "rather unlikely" that parties with those or similar views would come to power, and even less likely that, in

power, they would adopt the policies which, out of power, they were preaching.

Mr Kevin Macnamara, a Labour Party defence spokesman, said that what could lead to the break-up of the Atlantic alliance would be ill-informed lectures by unelected representatives of the American Government.

Mr Perle had completely misrepresented the basis and nature of the Labour Party's policy. He should ask himself whether he wanted an ally or a satellite.

The decision to withdraw the American aircraft and Servicemen was announced by the USAF yesterday as a result of an annual review by the USAF of its worldwide commitments (the Press Association reports).

The changes involve the withdrawal of 18 RF-4C Phantom reconnaissance aircraft from Alconbury in Cambridgeshire and 6 F-111F swing-wing bombers from Lakenheath in Suffolk. Six of the Phantoms will be redeployed in Europe and the remainder will go back to the United States to replace losses there.

As a result of those changes, about 785 Servicemen will be leaving Alconbury, but the USAF said that those would be offset by the arrival of 750 there or at Molesworth, where cruise missiles are to be based, by 1988. The US Air Force presence in that area will, therefore, be broadly unchanged.

Five anti-nuclear campaigners were arrested for damaging the fence as thousands of protesters blockaded the Molesworth base yesterday in snow and sub-zero temperatures.

The blockade marked the first anniversary of the arrival of Mr Michael Heseltine, who was then Secretary of State for Defence, at Molesworth to give the go-ahead for clearance of the site.

The demonstrators, estimated by police at 3,000, and by the CND at 5,000, arrived aboard hundreds of minibuses, coaches and cars to stand or sit in the snow around the perimeter fence.

The police made a point of allowing through vehicles with hot soup and other provisions, but by lunchtime two people had been taken away to be treated for hypothermia.

Pressure to end all building immunity

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Pressure will mount for the abolition of Crown immunity for all government buildings after the announcement yesterday that hospitals will no longer be covered.

Today a private member's Bill comes before the House of Commons for its second reading. It would end Crown immunity under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and make all government premises liable to inspection and prosecution if they did not come up to the required standards.

At present all central government buildings (but not local authority buildings such as schools) enjoy Crown immunity, an ancient common law principle that no proceedings, either criminal or civil, can be brought against the Crown.

This means that when conditions in Crown buildings such as prisons, police stations, government offices and until now hospitals fail to meet the standards required under such legislation as the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, no court proceedings can be brought against those responsible even if the conditions result in serious illness, grave injury or death.

Yesterday Mr Clive Wadley, assistant secretary of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, said he welcomed the decision to abolish Crown immunity for hospitals. But the institution's campaign always had been for removal of Crown immunity across the board.

"Obviously we have gone for hospitals first because it is in these establishments that deaths have occurred.

There also was concern that nurses' premises, for example, did not always meet the required standards under housing laws, and hospitals with their numerous chimneys and boilers might not comply with anti-pollution laws.

At present the problem was that the environmental health officers did not even have access to government establishments under the Property Services Agency, which included the Customs and Excise offices, Inland Revenue and Paymaster General.

The institution would be pressing for an end to Crown immunity each time that there was an opportunity for the Government to review the law.

Other groups are also pressing for abolition of Crown immunity. The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders is particularly concerned about prisons where there is no arrangement equivalent to that for hospitals allowing environmental health officers access to advise on good practice.



Mr Michael Heseltine, leaving home yesterday to appear before the Defence Select Committee (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Bristow 'had offer to change sides'

By Robin Young

Mr Alan Bristow disclosed yesterday that shortly before the Westland shareholders' meeting he was offered a £2.25 million profit on the shares he then held and a seat on the board by Sir John Cuckney—if he would switch his support to the Sikorsky-Fiat bid.

Mr Bristow claimed that Sir John, who is chairman of Westland, and Sir Gordon White, of Hanson Trust, arrived unannounced at a meeting he had with Mr Hubert Faure, senior executive vice-president of Sikorsky's parent company, United Technologies.

They wanted me to do something which I thought was entirely improper," Mr Bristow said. "They also said it was about time that I got the recognition I deserved for my services to British industry. I think it is quite immoral."

Mr Bristow said that it was the second offer he had received that day to buy out his shares. "The other came from an independent source. It also spoke of the possibility of some public recognition, but did not include a seat on the board. I have had another such offer since, but I will not say from whom."

Sir John confirmed that he had met Mr Bristow twice

but said: "All I am willing to say is that both meetings I assumed to be confidential. Each time I met him Mr Bristow told me that he wanted to be chairman of Westland. Apart from that I am not prepared to say where, when, or what was discussed at meetings which were supposed to be confidential. That is got the way to do business."

Mr Bristow denied he had been guilty of any breach of confidence. "No one asked me to treat the meeting of January 16 as confidential. If they had, I would," Sir John's suggestion that he had indicated a desire to be chairman of Westland was "a wonderful distortion of the truth."

Mr Bristow's version was that Sir John asked him whether he would consider becoming chairman. "I said I would have to consider it, but as I was not told what the salary would be, the terms of contract, or the terms of reference it would have been impossible to say more."

"Obviously if the terms were right I would have to consider any offer of the chairmanship very seriously indeed, but it would be quite unbusiness-like for me to request such a thing."

Geoffrey South, page 4

Handsworth to be part of £8m initiative on jobs

By Stephen Goodwin, Political Staff

The Government yesterday launched a new initiative to improve job and business prospects in selected inner-city areas with high ethnic minority populations. Two of the target areas, St Pauls in Bristol, and Handsworth, Birmingham, have been the scene of fierce street violence.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Employment, told the Commons that the Government wanted to intensify and bring together the efforts of government departments, local councils, the private sector and local communities in eight small inner-city areas.

Within these it intended to try out new approaches, particularly on training and self-employment opportunities. This would be tackled through projects of direct benefit to local residents and to their environment.

"We shall seek to stimulate enterprise, and provide a stronger base for the local economy. We shall give special attention to the problems of young people from ethnic minorities where they are particularly disadvantaged," Mr Clarke said.

But the £8 million allocated by the Government to get the initiative off the ground was derided by Opposition MPs. Mr John Prescott, Labour's employment spokesman, said it was "a mouse of a statement compared to the scale of the problem".

Mr Clarke said in his statement that the Government had selected areas which were diverse in character but whose residents shared problems of deprivation and lack of opportunities.

In addition to St Pauls and Handsworth, the areas are Notting Hill and North Peckham in London, the Chapeltown area of Leeds,

North Central, Middlesbrough, the Highfields area of Leicester and Moss Side in Manchester.

Mr Clarke said that small task forces would be established in each area to work with the local authorities, communities and voluntary organizations, and would seek private sector participation.

Mr Prescott said the statement implied that the Government recognized there was a connection between social disorder and race riots and the extraordinarily high rates of unemployment among ethnic minorities in these areas.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, whose Birmingham, Perry Barr constituency includes part of Handsworth, warned Mr Clarke not to be misled by "many of the self-appointed windbags who maraud our inner cities as so-called community leaders but who have a vested interest sometimes in making sure solutions are not met."

Mr Kenneth Clarke said afterwards that the main purpose of each task force would be to maximize the effect of existing programmes.

One factor in the selection of the eight areas was to choose places which were all reasonably compact and had high unemployment.

"One purpose of the project will be to take more advantage of the Race Relations Act provisions giving the opportunity to channel training specifically to racial minorities where they are disadvantaged," he said.

The overall rate of unemployment in the eight areas ranges from 21.5 per cent in Notting Hill to 38.5 per cent in Handsworth. Youth unemployment ranges from 31 per cent in Notting Hill to 56 per cent in Handsworth.

Synod decision, page 32

EETPU executive delays crisis talks

By Michael Horsnell

The executive of the electricians' union, which was instructed by the Trades Union Congress on Wednesday to stop co-operating with News International at Wapping, will not meet until next Tuesday to discuss its response—only 24 hours before the TUC deadline for compliance runs out.

Mr Tom Breakell, president of the 350,000-member union, yesterday told the EETPU executive that the TUC had found it guilty of conduct detrimental to the union movement.

But original plans to call a special meeting of the executive were called off in favour of next Tuesday's normal monthly meeting.

If the union fails to comply with the TUC instruction by the next day it faces suspension and ultimate expulsion by the full Congress on a card vote in September.

That could lead to a full-scale membership war between the EETPU and affiliated unions.

A big sticking point is likely to be the TUC general council's demand that EETPU should not enter a single union agreement at Wapping where Mr Rupert Murdoch's four News International titles are produced. The EETPU was the only union to negotiate with News

International over a legally binding no strike deal at Wapping.

The EETPU was suspended or expelled, the TUC's long-standing Bridlington procedures which prevent the poaching of one union's members by another would be suspended, thus opening the door to an inter-union membership war.

The EETPU, which would be informed of its suspension by letter if the TUC orders it, would be faced with some finely balanced advantages and disadvantages in the event of union fragmentation.

It could lose its political clout as an affiliated body in negotiating with government and industry. But in industrial relations expulsion could work for and against EETPU.

While some employers might prefer to collaborate with other unions to deny the electricians' recognition rights, others are expected to be encouraged to recognize them and negotiate. That could mean an influx of members.

Financially, the EETPU would benefit from not having to pay affiliation fees to the TUC and save on the cost of conferences. But they would lose TUC grant income for education.

Parliament, page 4

Kinnock maintains Press ban

By Anthony Bervin

Mr Neil Kinnock last night held a House of Commons press conference from which representatives of News International newspapers, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, and *The Sunday Express*, were excluded.

The Labour leader broke his formal links with parliamentary lobby journalists last week when, after a Labour Party National Executive resolution, he said that because of the industrial dispute over Wapping he would "not accept questions or other approaches from journalists employed by News International". Because News International journalists alone could not be excluded from his Thursday lobby briefings, those meetings were cancelled.

His office yesterday invited selected journalists to a private meeting.

Representatives of the *Daily Mail* and the *Yorkshire Post* said they would not attend. But journalists on the *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, *Daily Express*, *Mirror*, and from the Press Association, BBC and ITN, said they would be there if they had the time.

Mr James Whitman, of the *Daily Telegraph*, told *The Times*: "I am not answering the question."

Mountains of food 'a timebomb'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The continued existence of Europe's food mountains represented a "time bomb" which could blow up its agricultural policy, Mr Frans Andriessen, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner, said yesterday.

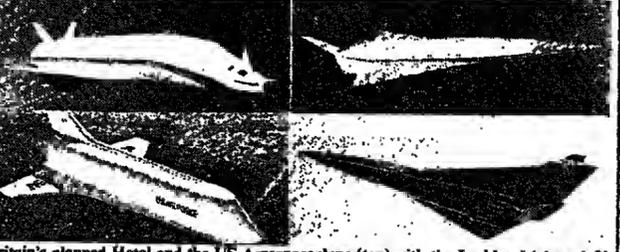
In the closing address to a conference in London, on the day after the European Commission announced its latest farm price proposals, Mr Andriessen said it would be irresponsible to ignore the dangers.

That was why the Commission proposed to begin this year its £1,800 million programme to dispose of surplus stocks.

"By any commercial standards, the way in which we accumulate and maintain such stocks is absurd," he said.

So far from stabilising the market, they permanently destabilized it. "The longer we keep them, the more expensive it becomes to dispose of them," he told the conference, organized by the magazine *Agra Europe*.

Prices may be frozen, page 7



Britain's planned Hotel and the US Aerospaceplane (top) with the Lockheed (above left) and Nasa models of the hypersonic "Orient Express," research for which is going ahead.

Spaceplane, British style

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Competition is building between the United States and Europe to be the first to build a spaceplane.

The encouragement given to the American aerospace industry by President Reagan to his State of the Union address was for the building of the "Orient Express", a relative late entrant to the field which it is planned will be capable of flying in low earth orbit from Washington to Tokyo in two hours.

A design of such a vehicle was produced last year by British Aerospace with its Hotel (horizontal takeoff and landing) project, which the

Government has decided this week to support with a £3 million study. Another version has been prepared by French experts.

The emphasis placed by Mr Reagan on a past passenger plane has roused public fascination, but it has clouded the issue a little. The design teams are all working on the same basic idea. It is to combine new, light air-frame materials with advanced "scramjet" engines to construct a plane that has an incredible performance.

It could carry freight into orbit or it could pick up passengers at breakfast time in London and unload them in New York as Americans

on the east coast are just waking up.

The British Hotel and the proposed American vehicle, capable of speeds in excess of Mach 25, were intended by their designers for sending payloads cheaply into orbit.

The British project is based on an innovation which should produce a cheaper spaceplane. It has air-breathing engines for the first phase of flight for the journey through the atmosphere. By collecting and burning oxygen from the air with hydrogen on board, it avoids the penalty of carrying all the fuel load at take-off. The rest of the acceleration outside the atmosphere is provided by more normal rocket.

Joseph to defy exam boycott

Continued from page 1

hours and the Government is funding 90 per cent of the cost of supply cover for teachers released to attend these seminars up to a total of £8 million expenditure.

The preparations, including the initial training programme and the extra training from September 1986 onwards, were unprecedented.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the NAS/JWT, said that £8 million was a "drop in the ocean". He said: "It does not in any way recognise the enormous amount of additional work required of teachers who will have to revolutionize their syllabuses, and it does not recognise the fact that industrial action in the 1985 salaries dispute has crippled a large part of the operation beyond the point of no return."

If the exam went ahead, "unholy chaos" would reign, Mr de Gruchy said.

The Secondary Examinations Council, which is responsible for introducing the new exam, estimates that teachers' attendance rate at the current training courses is between 60 and 75 per cent despite the union boycott.

"There is no way we can go back now because all the preparations are in train," Sir Wilfred Cockcroft, the council's chairman and chief executive said.

Ministers force BL retreat

Continued from page 1

on the Labour motion had been one to nine, but that slumped to an 86-vote majority when the Government had called for support in pursuing all options for a nationalized group which had received £2.2 billion in grants and a further £1.5 billion in guarantees since it was nationalized 10 years ago.

Among those who failed to vote in the second motion were Mr Michael Heseltine, Mr Francis Pym and Sir Ian Gilmour, all former Conservative cabinet ministers.

Dr David Owen, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, said last night: "Incompetence is the hallmark of the BL saga, just as incompetence underlies the Westland affair."

Speaking in Watford, he said: "We cannot buy British if there is nothing British left to buy" and added that the Government knew the price of everything but the value of nothing.

The Conservative Party's present difficulties were emphasized last night by Mr George Gardiner, a backbench Conservative loyalist, who said in Streatham, south London: "The overwhelming majority of Tory MPs remain loyal to Mrs Thatcher and are sick to death of this assassination campaign."

Experts clash on birth

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Senior obstetricians clashed yesterday over the handling by Mrs Wendy Savage of a birth over which she is accused of professional incompetence.

Mr John McGarry, the senior consultant obstetrician at the North Devon Hospital, said he did not believe Mrs Savage's management of the case could be faulted. Her employer, Tower Hamlets Health Authority, is accusing her of "idiosyncratic" management, outside the normal limits of medical practice, which was "potentially hazardous to the unborn child".

Mr McGarry also made it plain that he did not believe that Professor Jurgis Grudzinskas, head of obstetrics at the London Hospital, who helped to frame the charges against Mrs Savage, had taken a disinterested view of the case.

Mr McGarry's comments were read out to the inquiry by Mrs Savage's counsel, Mr John Hendy, as he was cross-examining Professor Grudzinskas.

The woman in question, referred to as Mrs S.P., spent eight hours in the second stage of labour before having her baby safely delivered by caesarian section. As the labour dragged on she was given a syntocinon drip to speed up the contractions of her uterus.

Mr McGarry, who reviewed the cases on Mrs Savage's behalf, stated that the case was "highly unusual" in that the baby, in the breech position, failed over several hours to descend through the "pigantic" pelvis of a woman who was over 6ft tall.

He stated: "It seems extremely curious to me that this case is used as an example of poor management on Mrs Savage's part."

Professor Grudzinskas argued that he would not have used syntocinon so late in the day and would have considered a caesarian delivery several hours earlier.

Glue-sniff parent's remorse

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A father told an inquest yesterday how he put his son aged 10 in care in an effort to stop him glue-sniffing.

For four years after Billy Smithson returned home his father thought he was cured—but the schoolboy was still experimenting with drugs. He died two weeks ago, aged 14, after inhaling petrol from a moped during a party. He had been in a coma in hospital for two months.

Mr James Smithson said last night after a coroner passed a verdict of death by misadventure: "I want to plead with other boys not to experiment with anything like this. The only way to stamp this evil out is to pass a law to punish youngsters who start sniffing glue to stop others from trying it."

Mr Smithson, a pipe layer of Hillson Drive, Fareham, Hampshire, who brought two children up after his wife left, said he discovered Billy was sniffing glue when he found him reeling in the bathroom.

Two held over Sikh attacks

Continued from page 1

Two Asian men were being questioned last night by detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad investigating the murder of a Sikh leader and the wounding of another in incidents in west London.

The attacks last month were directed at moderate leaders in the Sikh community in the Southall area. The two men were held when detectives raided an address in south London. Police are also seeking a third man suspected of being the gunman.

Sharkey pair held by IRA

Continued from page 1

The mother and sister of the pop star Feargal Sharkey, Mrs Sibeal Sharkey and her married daughter, Ursula Clifford, were held hostage yesterday for more than five hours by six masked IRA gunmen in a house on the outskirts of Londonderry's Shantallow.

Police believe the gunmen had been setting up an ambush for security forces

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Leyland's truck ride through trouble

By Clifford Wehh, Motoring Correspondent

Leyland's problems with its truck operations began to look ominous as long ago as the late 1970s.

While most of its European rivals were riding high with booming sales at home and overseas, the British company was hampered by outdated trucks and too many inefficient and scattered factories.

But with the help of £370 million in government funding it was just embarking on a fundamental reorganization aimed at providing a whole

new range of trucks made in fewer factories by a much slimmer workforce.

The irony of what has happened since is that the reorganization started back in 1980 has kept step with one of the most difficult periods in the recent history of the European truck industry.

Few firms have made money and most have suffered very heavy losses. But at the same time the most aggressive European groups, such as Daimler Benz of West Germany, Volvo from Sweden, and Renault of France, were taking advantage of a similar collapse of

sales in the United States to buy truck companies there cheaply.

They were moves much resented by American groups such as General Motors and Ford.

With the impending closure next month of its truck assembly plant at Bathgate near Edinburgh, Leyland will have completed its survival plan.

The trucks' labour force will have been cut from more than 12,000 in 1982 to about 6,500 operating from only two assembly plants, Leyland, near Preston, for general

purpose trucks, and Scammell at Watford for "super heavies" for special purposes at home and overseas.

It also has begun a £9 million modernization of its Albion axles plant at Scotstoun, Glasgow. In the meantime, it continued to lose ground at home and overseas.

There has been some slight improvement in domestic sales recently but since 1979 output of Leyland trucks has fallen from 30,000 a year to 14,000. The main problem has been the collapse of traditional export markets.

Parliament, page 4

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Violent career of a rector's son and a professor's daughter

'Bonnie and Clyde' jailed for spate of robberies

From Tim Jones, Gloucester

A rector's adopted son and the teenage daughter of a professor of English who embarked on a violent year-long campaign of armed robbery began lengthy prison sentences yesterday.

Gloucester Crown Court was told that four days after their wedding in August 1984, Philip John Oules, aged 26, and his bride, Jayne Kamala, who was then 17, started their life of crime.

Their violent "Bonnie and Clyde" career ended the next year after Oules, who had terrified customers at Cheltenham post office, was followed and brought down by Mr Dick Whitaker, a restaurant owner, who chased him into a department store.

Oules, of Poppyfield Court, Northampton, pleaded guilty to nine charges of robbery, one of attempted robbery, nine of having firearms with intent to commit robbery and four of shortening shot-gun barrels.

He was jailed for 15 years. His wife who faced 16 charges pleaded guilty to two bank robberies and to an attempted robbery at another post office. She was sentenced to five years' youth custody.

Mr Chadd said: "An unpleasant aspect of his activities is that he was more than a mere predator on banks and post offices. He took a warped pleasure in the agony he imposed on others as demonstrated by the needless pressing of a shot-gun to the head of a pensioner."

The court was told that Oules always armed and often wearing a disguise, had threatened to kill customers who, on occasions, stood in his way and that he fired warning shots to make counter staff jump to his demands.

Mr Chadd said Oules was devoted to his young wife and wished to provide her with the style of living he judged she deserved. The money he was earning as a security officer was not enough for them.

"But it would be false of the prosecution to portray him as having dominated her. Experienced officers who interviewed them had no doubt she was the stronger character of the two."

Mr Peter Curran, for Oules, said he had been immensely relieved to be caught. He said that if Oules had not been caught he would have attempted to give up his life of crime because he realized that capture was inevitable.

Oules, he said, rejected the suggestion that his wife was a dominant partner or that he had taken perverse pleasure in imposing agony.

It was not until their luck ran out and the police visited their terraced home in Northampton that detectives fully understood the vicious determination of the Oules couple.

For the house, protected like a fortress, contained enough weapons to fill two crates. A gun rigged to a trip wire guarded the front door and a pressure plate concealed in the front lawn was activated to flood the house in light if anyone approached.

Other items were found in a hut in the garden. It was guarded by a tripwire device that could trigger off a shotgun cartridge as a warning to intruders.

When Philip Oules and his bride, Jayne Kamala Mahabir, were married by his father, the Rev John Oules, at St Peter's Church, Cogenhoe, near Northampton, in July 1984 there was nothing to indicate they were anything but a normal happy couple.

But they had embarked on a "Bonnie and Clyde" crime spree which took them on armed raids throughout England.

Always sheltering behind a sawn-off shotgun which he did not hesitate to use, Oules terrorized counter staff into handing over money while his wife, whom the police believe planned the details of their nine robberies, waited in a getaway car.

The product of a broken home, Oules was taken into care by Mr Oules and his wife Joan. When he failed to get into university he was accepted by The Parachute Regiment, but his military career was cut short by a near fatal accident.

Neighbours in Poppyfield Court were staggered when details of the couple's activities became known. Mr



Jayne Oules (above left), who received five years' youth custody, and her husband Philip (above right), who was jailed for 15 years.



WPC O'Keefe (above), who arrested Oules, and the shed with a boobytrap guard.

Peter Ridge said: "When they moved in they didn't seem a lot different from anyone else, but they started to buy expensive things—stereos and all sorts of other electronic gadgets."

Mrs Stephanie Ridge said their neighbours appeared to have an active sex life. She said: "She was something of an exhibitionist, wearing skimpy clothes. She was a very sexy dresser—her clothes were lacy and men-oriented."

The first raid carried out by the Oules couple was in Blackpool in August 1984 when Philip Oules burst into a bank with the gun and escaped with £4,000.

Oules' last raid was in Cheltenham last in the summer when he stole £8,000 from the post office, after firing his gun to terrify the staff.

He ran out into the street brandishing a shotgun and tried to hide in the Cavendish House department store, but a passer-by, Mr Richard Whitaker, ran after him and brought him down.

As they struggled, Oules fired a shot, two of the store's customers, Mr Keith Pulley and Mr Dick Murrell, a retired army major, came to Mr Whitaker's help.

The three fought with the gunman until Woman Police Constable Nicola O'Keefe, aged 23, arrived. WPC O'Keefe handcuffed Oules.

After Oules failed to meet rendezvous with her, Mahabir learnt from a local newspaper hoarding that he had been arrested. She ran to her car only to discover she had locked herself out. She demonstrated her coolness by asking a passing policeman for help.

The charges

The couple faced an indictment of 23 charges. Oules admitted all the charges and his wife admitted five involving two bank raids at Derby and Aylesbury, two post office raids at Watford and Cheltenham, and an attempted post office robbery at Dudley, West Midlands.

Oules pleaded guilty to armed bank robberies in 1984 at Williams and Glyn's, Dickson Road, Blackpool, on August 29 (when £4,010 was taken); The Spot, Derby (£5,114); and October 11 at Barclays, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury (£9,028).

He also admitted an attempted armed robbery on October 25, 1984, at a post office in Dudley.

He admitted armed robberies last year at post offices - on January 23 at Church Road, Cancock (£14,939); on May 6 at Market Street, Watford (£13,204); on May 16 at The Bull Ring, Kidderminster (£8,645); and on July 24 at The Promenade, Cheltenham (£8,489).

Oules further admitted robbing a shop at Smith Street, Warwick, on October 8, 1984, stealing £160 and other articles at a knife-point, and a shotgun robbery at the High Street post office, Rickmansworth, on October 25, 1984, when he stole £7,100.

Nine offences of possessing a shotgun with intent and four offences of shortening gun barrels were also admitted by him.

Relief of breast pain on way

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A drug used to treat breast cancer may offer hope to thousands of women who suffer from severe breast pain during their monthly cycles, according to a study at Guy's Hospital, London.

Severe breast pain, mastalgia, is the most common breast problem reported to family doctors, according to Mr Ian Fentiman, the consultant surgeon who carried out the study. Half of the new patients at the Guy's breast clinic are sufferers.

Mr Fentiman said: "The women show no signs of serious disease, but the pain is often associated with the menstrual cycle and it can be so severe that it prevents women from enjoying a social life or sexual activity."

Most drugs used to treat the condition cause fairly frequent and quite unpleasant side effects, according to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which finances the clinical oncology unit.

In the trial, 60 women were given tamoxifen or an inert placebo in a study lasting more than six months and, according to results published in The Lancet today, the drug effectively relieved pain in more than 70 per cent of women.

Most women reported that there were no undue side effects, although a quarter said they had hot flushes and one in six vaginal discharge.

Mr Fentiman said yesterday: "The long-term safety of the drug must be proven before it can be recommended for routine treatment. We will be looking at this aspect in a current study. Longer-term treatment of breast cancer patients with tamoxifen will also help us to evaluate any possible risks."

Tamoxifen has proved useful in treating breast cancer and Imperial Cancer Research Fund scientists suggested last month that a large-scale trial should be launched to see if it can prevent breast cancer.

Briton in £1.8m cross-Channel fraud, court told

A senior British EEC official based in Brussels was involved in a cross-Channel fraud aimed at cheating a City stockbroking firm out of £1.8 million using a single counterfeit cheque, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

A cheque for that sum, forged in London and purporting to be drawn on the account of brokers James Capel, was flown to Luxembourg where Richard Hamill, aged 46, paid it into a numbered bank account which he had opened, the jury was told.

"The scheme very nearly worked," Mr Timothy Langdale, for the prosecution, said.

The National Westminster Bank in London was about to transfer the money and had actually marked the cheque "paid". But a clerk at James Capel discovered their account was overdrawn and began inquiries. As a result, the movement of the money was halted.

Mr Hamill was to have received £10,000 for assisting in making the £1.8 million "vanish" in the untraceable numbered account, Mr Langdale said.

He and David Green, aged 45, a company director, of Kensington Gardens, west London, deny conspiracy to

steal between January and July 31, 1984, and conspiring between the same dates to use a false instrument.

Mr Langdale said it appeared that a genuine James Capel cheque had been used to create the forged and returned.

Mr Green took the cheque to Luxembourg, but neither he nor Mr Hamill had been involved in the counterfeiting.

Mr Hamill, who works in a section of the EEC dealing with metals, was arrested when he flew to Britain in October 1984.

He at first told police "a pack of lies", then he began telling them "some of the truth, but had never told the whole truth, Mr Langdale said.

Among several people who had pleaded guilty to the fraud was Waltham Bennes, aged 45, from Haslemere, Surrey, a former assistant manager with the National Westminster Bank.

Mr Langdale said that he was given an 18-month sentence at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday with all but four-and-a-half months suspended. He was also fined £5,000 after admitting conspiracy to use a false instrument.

The case continues today.

Aids 'to spread to all areas'

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is likely to spread to every area of Britain within the next few years and local health officials must be prepared, the Government's chief medical officer, Dr Donald Acheson, said yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

District health authorities are being encouraged by the Department of Health to plan for every aspect from prevention to treatment.

Dr Acheson, speaking at an Aids seminar in London, said such preparations were needed "so that the arrival of the first case of Aids in a district will not cause the sort of

unfortunate publicity and panic that occurred one or two years ago".

A £3 million publicity campaign highlighting the facts and the fallacies about Aids is about to be launched by the Government.

The national campaign, concentrating on newspaper advertisements, will be backed up by a regional confidential hotlines

A total of 287 Aids cases in Britain had been reported by the end of last month, including 144 deaths. About 75 per cent of cases have occurred in London. But by 1984 there could be about 2,000 cases under care

Military bands merger attacked

By Rodney Cowton and Richard Evans

The Ministry of Defence has run into more trouble over its controversial plan to merge its three military schools of music into a single Defence School of Music.

The costs of doing so are running at nearly twice the level expected and yesterday the scheme was severely criticized by an all-party committee of MPs.

The services have 80 bands, which cost about £31 million a year, although they are involved in about 1,400 fee-paying public engagements every year.

costs about £3 million a year and is at present carried out at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, Twickenham, and the RAF Music Centre, Uxbridge, both in London, and the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal, in Kent.

In 1984, the ministry announced it intended to concentrate the schools at a single centre to be established at Deal, which would be opened in 1988.

But the Commons Public Accounts Committee, in a report published yesterday, said it was "gravely disquieted" by the decision which it did not believe was

justified on cost. It called for a complete reappraisal.

The committee found that over a 15-year period the scheme would cost more than £22.3 million possible savings.

The committee said: "We have no confidence that the appraisals carried out to date provide justification for the ministry's decision."

The Government has admitted that estimated construction costs of the scheme had risen from £5.8 million to £0.6 million, and aspect of it were being reappraised

Fastest train to Scotland

By Craig Seton

The Electra, a new generation of Inter-City locomotives capable of 140 miles per hour, the fastest in Britain, has been ordered by British Rail in a £35 million deal announced yesterday.

It will begin service in 1989 on the newly electrified East Coast Line, first between London and Leeds and then between London and Edinburgh by 1991, cutting 10 minutes off the 4 hours and 20 minutes journey time.

The order for 31 class 91 Electras has been awarded to GEC Transportation Projects which will design and manufacture the electric motors and control systems.

Although the Electra has a top speed of 140 mph, its speed on the East Coast run is expected to be kept to 125 mph to avoid extra fuel costs.

Newscasters in Radio 2 music line-up

Richard Baker and Bob Holness, former newscasters, are joining Radio 2. They will present their own shows as part of a shake-up of the BBC network.

Mr Baker, a Radio 4 presenter, will host Melodies for You. Radio 2's Sunday morning programme of light classical music, from the beginning of April.

Mr Holness, a former London Broadcasting Company presenter, will take over the BBC Radio Orchestra's Tuesday night selection of the best in popular music in the new Beautiful Music slot. The shake-up on Radio 2 means that each weekday night will be devoted to different types of music.

Radical legal aid plan for Scotland

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical and wide-ranging proposals to remove responsibility for the legal aid scheme in Scotland from the Law Society and the courts and place it with a new quango were published by the Government yesterday.

The Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill proposes that in future the Scottish Legal Aid Board should take over responsibility for handling all applications for civil legal aid and other administrative functions now done by the Law Society of Scotland.

It would also take over the assessment of a person's financial eligibility for civil legal aid, now handled by the Scottish Home and Health Department, and the bulk of criminal legal aid applications.

The courts will retain responsibility for legal aid applications in the more serious criminal cases.

In two particularly controversial proposals the Bill also outlines what is being seen as the first cash limit in a scheme which is supposed to be open-ended: legal aid will

no longer be available for those who plead guilty in summary cases.

It also suggests that the new board would have power to employ solicitors to do litigation under the legal aid scheme.

Officials emphasized yesterday that the measures were not aimed at curbing the cost of legal aid.

"They are aimed at tidying up and streamlining a system which is currently administered across a number of bodies, and at ensuring the scheme is administered efficiently at minimum cost."

But the immediate reaction both from the Law Society of Scotland and that of England and Wales was concern that the proposals would result in a curtailing of the system.

Last year it cost £38 million. The Government has just announced a scrutiny of the legal aid scheme for England and Wales, now costing £320 million a year. There is concern that this, too, may result in a curtailment.

Legal aid costs, page 12

Two jailed for part in bomb plot

Two men who took part in a "sinister and chilling" plot to bomb the home of a former Special Air Services Regiment officer were jailed for a total of 24 years at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Mann said that the planned explosion at the Herefordshire home of Lieutenant Colonel Brian Bate had a political object. "It is unfortunately only too common in present times and people must be deterred from attaining political ends in this way."

Peter Jordan, aged 61, a retired teacher, of St Peter's Rise, Headley Park, Bristol, was sentenced to 14 years for conspiring to cause an explosion.

William Grimes, aged 44, who is unemployed, of Cherryfield Road, Dublin, received two 10-year sentences for conspiracy and possessing explosives, to run concurrently. Jordan and Grimes admitted the charges.

A third man, Peter Lynch, aged 46, unemployed, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, who admitted failing to disclose information about an act of terrorism, was sentenced to 400 days, which the judge said would mean his immediate release after spending 13 months in jail awaiting trial.

The judge told Mr Rhys Davies, QC, for the prosecution: "I would like to express the court's appreciation that, but for the work of the police on Merseyside and in London, a greater catastrophe would have occurred."

West Midlands Police said yesterday that a stone had been thrown through a window at the Birmingham home of Dr Maire O'Shea, who was acquitted on Wednesday of all charges relating to the bomb plot.

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More tests on staff at Sellafield

ENERGY

No risk to the public was caused by the small release of plutonium radioactivity from the main reprocessing building at Sellafield, Mr Alastair Goodall, Under Secretary of State for Energy, assured MPs in the Commons.

In his statement about the leak he said tests on staff for contamination had so far shown no cause for concern. British Nuclear Fuels would carry out further tests on staff over the next few days. He later said the plant had restarted operations today (Thursday) and he hoped there would be no more discharges.

British Nuclear Fuels have reported (he said) that during maintenance operations on a pump during which air was accidentally blown across a flow of liquid with plutonium in it. This caused a mist with a small amount of plutonium in suspension.



Goodall: Do not close the plant

The incident arose during maintenance operations on a pump during which air was accidentally blown across a flow of liquid with plutonium in it. This caused a mist with a small amount of plutonium in suspension.

Monitoring equipment, which is extremely sensitive, gave an alarm. Staff quickly traced the source of the escape. Mr Goodall said the plant had restarted operations today (Thursday) and he hoped there would be no more discharges.

A member of the nuclear installation inspectorate was on site and was notified at the time. My department and other interested Government departments were notified shortly afterwards.

The company has estimated that a very small radionuclide release from the building of 50 micro-curies may have occurred, though no release was detected by the monitoring equipment outside the building.

The nuclear installations inspectorate has already initiated an investigation in co-operation with the radiochemicals inspectorate and will make a statement about the incident within the next few days. The company is also conducting its own enquiry into the incident.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on environment, who had called for the statement to be made, said the company's claim, some radio active material had escaped into the atmosphere.

Mr Goodall (he added) discount the inevitable but unjustified calls likely to be made for the Government to close the plant, which would immediately throw 11,000 jobs out of work.

Will he institute the most rigorous enquiry and ensure that its reports are available to the House and the public as soon as possible?

The Government convey to the management of British Nuclear Fuels the fact that the industry can only have a future if there is public acceptance of its activities?

It is a regular series of such incidents, whether serious or not in terms of nuclear material, simply undermines public confidence in the industry.

Mr Goodall: The precise amount of the discharge will be known when the enquiry has been completed. About 50 people were evacuated and they are having medical tests. I heartily endorse Dr Cunningham's remarks about resuming any suggestion that the plant should be closed.

The report will be made public and I endorse what he said about the necessity for public confidence and I trust there will be no series of incidents.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton South, C) said it was encouraging that the management of Sellafield had a proper early warning system.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said the BBC had described the incident as the source of the worst radio active pollution in Europe. Assurances from British Nuclear Fuels were about as reliable as assurances from the Government. He added that this dirty and dangerous plant should be closed.

Mr Goodall replied that the company on the whole had a good record.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) These repeated incidents at Windscale make it increasingly difficult for those of us who support nuclear power to defend it.

Mr Goodall: I do not wish to anticipate the results of the inquiry but I think he should keep the significance of this incident in proportion.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, LI) said that incidents with a safety factor in the last 30 years on this site. Was Mr Goodall satisfied with the site?

Mr Goodall: The site is subject to the nuclear installations inspection.

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Thatcher backing for electricians

THE PRESS

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, congratulated any Trade Union, especially the EETPU which had abolished restrictive practices such as over-manning and had embraced the latest technology.

She told MPs during Commons questions: "That is the way to have the best and most efficient industry."

She was answering Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) who had said: the TUC, in its wisdom has somehow managed to find the electricians guilty of conduct unbecoming to the Trade Union Movement. He said the two unions involved in the dispute with Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, had abused everything that the trade union movement should have stood for in the last 20 years.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North-East, Lab) Has she noticed the cynical and deceitful way Mr Murdoch has cold-bloodedly over a period of months been conspiring and scheming to sack his entire workforce at one go?

This has been described in certain quarters as Thatcherism in action. Is that an accurate description or would she like to dissociate herself from that brutal and unprecedented action?

Mrs Thatcher: I am surprised Mr Leighton is so resistant to getting the latest technology into British industry, including the newspaper industry.

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Mrs Thatcher: I am surprised Mr Leighton is so resistant to getting the latest technology into British industry, including the newspaper industry.

Labour MP seeks aid for merchant fleet

SHIPPING

A plea to the Prime Minister to do something to save Britain's vital merchant fleet came to the Commons from Mr Donald Dixon (Jarrow, Lab).

He said during Prime Minister's questions that in recent years the number of ships in the fleet had fallen from 1,600 to about 600. The number of men working for British Shipbuilders had dropped from 87,300 to about 10,000.

According to the news (he continued) the unions have met British Shipbuilders and reported that another 4,000 more men will be made redundant before the end of this year. Half of them are in the northern region which already has the highest percentage of unemployment in mainland Britain.

The Prime Minister should show the same patriotism to our country that she sought from our people during the Falklands war (Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher told him that the problem of British Shipbuilders as with those of the work over, was a shortage of orders.

It is a shortage (she said) that is difficult to get over.

Ministers' aides pack airport Bill committee

The Government is under fire from within the Conservative ranks for packing an important Commons committee to stifle any rebellion on its Bill to privatize Britain's main airports.

MPs who act as aides to ministers not connected with aviation policy have been drafted on to the Airports Bill Committee.

They can be guaranteed not to vote against the Government because of their position as parliamentary private secretaries.

That means that of the 16-member committee, a comfortable majority will toe the government line.

One Conservative MP told *The Times* that "having got their fingers burned once" on the ill-fated Civil Aviation Bill, the Government was taking no chances.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said he withdrew the Civil Aviation Bill in December 1984.

It would have let him limit air traffic movements at Heathrow to 275,000 a year, but strong pressure from Conservative MPs, particularly opponents of expansion at Stansted, prevented any progress to the Bill's committee stage.

The experience was clearly a chastening one for the government whips. They have ensured that of the 16 members of the committee on the Airports Bill, a comfortable majority can be relied upon to toe the government line.

Six of the Conservatives on the committee are parliamentary private secretaries. Normally there are two or three.

There are two main areas of the Bill where the Government is expecting trouble from Tory dissidents - the proposal to privatize the British Airport Authority's seven big airports under a single holding company, and the restriction of powers for Mr Ridley to set limits on air transport movements.

Violence on television to be monitored

Further monitoring of BBC and independent television programmes over their violence content was announced by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, after Mrs Virginia Bottomley (South West Surrey, C) referred to mounting public concern about the amount of violence seen on television screens.

Mrs Thatcher said it was because of public disquiet that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, had called in the BBC and IBA authorities to discuss with them how they were going to alter the guidelines on violence so that they amount of violence seen was reduced.

We shall wait and see what they do (she went on) and monitor it carefully and see whether any further action needs to be taken.

Watching the weeds grow

A farmer in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, has to sit in his cottage all day and watch the weeds grow. Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) told the House of Commons.

Mr Haynes explained during question time that the farmer wanted to work his land but the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food would not let him.

Apparently (he went on) there are certain weeds which are of scientific value, yet the farmer wants to earn his living. It is a stupid situation.

Mrs Pegg Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told him: I am aware that there are certain plants of inestimable value, including some weeds, which will write to see Mr Jones. It started almost thirty years ago when a young seal was washed up near the cafe he ran with his wife Mary at St Agnes. Since then, his battle to save the seals has taken him to the edge of bankruptcy and involved costly battles with local authorities.

When the bathub in his cafe and the small pool he built could no longer cope, he overcame local opposition to establish his seal sanctuary at Gweek, in the beautiful Helford estuary.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Safety and Bill, Crown Immunity Bill and other Bills, second readings.

Private buyer for whole of Leyland would be welcome

INDUSTRY

A private sector buyer for the whole of BL in Britain would be very welcome, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions when Mr David Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, said £2 billion of taxpayers' money had gone into the industry and the benefit would be reaped by a few multinationals.

Mr Kinnoch said it was a foreign sell-out. Mrs Thatcher said the Labour government did not object when Chrysler took a majority share in Rootes.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) In view of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's determination yesterday on the proposed sale of BL to the Americans, will she reconsider the proposals? Will she make a statement, particularly in light of the threat as outlined by him of no security for the workers of BL?

Mrs Thatcher: There will be a statement on BL from Mr Channon. Inward investment in Britain from overseas has created 100,000 new jobs and safeguarded many more and one of the objects and purposes of our entering the Common Market was so that we might attract that investment to this country.

Mr Anthony Favell (Stockport, C) Would he remind those engaged in the UK car market that the share of the home market has dropped from 90 per cent 25 years ago to 34 per cent now? How many job losses to suppliers such as British Steel have been caused by this abysmal performance?

Mrs Thatcher: The performance and productivity has improved but not enough yet to recover a sufficient share of the car market.

Mr Kinnoch: British public investment in BL, David, the Prime Minister think British taxpayers saved it to order that it could be used for a foreign sell-out?

Mrs Thatcher: The British taxpayer has been very generous to BL. We wish there to be a secure future for the car industry in this country and with that in mind we have taken certain decisions.

Mr Kinnoch: Since she discussed this matter in Cabinet this morning what security, what assurances and which one does she think can be sustained in the light of the international car market and the fact that decisions would be made well outside this country for reasons that primarily would benefit a multi-national outside this country?

Mrs Thatcher: One gets a larger share of the market by the freedom of being efficient and having a very good distribution mechanism. His government did not object to Chrysler taking a majority share in Rootes.

Mr John Moxon (Glasgow Cathcart, Lab) In view of the fact that the Prime Minister and ministers have consistently said over the past month that we must have regard to the interests of the workers of Westland to decide the future of that company, will she now give the same regard to the workers of BL?

Mrs Thatcher: The British Government decided not to mount any rescue package for Westland or to put in any more money other than writing off £40 million expenditure already incurred.

Mr Stewart Bell (Middlesbrough, Lab) How many taxpayers' subsidies has gone into the farming industry. Mrs Thatcher: The system of support changed from direct support when we went into Europe. The amount of support in the form of the taxpayer through Europe is too big but we are trying to get the surpluses down.

Ford not now to buy Austin Rover

The possibility of the sale of Austin Rover to Ford would not be pursued, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced in a Commons statement on the subject of the takeover.

Mr Channon said the Government was not pursuing the sale of Austin Rover to Ford because of the Government's policy of supporting the car industry and its workers.

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Protests at lack of smear test recall

Health authorities needed to employ another person in their laboratories it would cost about the same amount.

Mrs Rees Shutt (Wolverhampton North East, Lab) said the Government was not proposing to have even a recall system until 1988. The minister was hiding behind his own inefficiency and the Government's refusal to provide the resources that were needed.

Mrs Elaine Kellert-Bowman (Lancaster, C) said it was unacceptable that women should be tested only for the test not to be properly followed up.

Mrs Edwina Currie (Derbyshire South, C) said the task was to get at the older women who did not know what a smear test was and did not think it applied to them.

Mr Raymond Williams, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, replying, said the Government was far from being satisfied with the present system of cervical screening for cancer. Health authorities were aware of the Government's concern.

Labour ridicule initiative for inner cities

EMPLOYMENT

Eight inner city areas have been chosen for an initiative aimed at improving job opportunities and the quality of life, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and chief Commons spokesman on employment, announced in the Commons.

In the teeth of loud laughter and jeering from Labour MPs, he said he hoped the House would welcome this bold experiment which would have £3 million of additional money comprising £3 million from within the Department of Employment's existing provision and £5 million from the reserve.

Mr Clarke said small "task forces" would be established in each of the areas to work with the local authorities and local community and voluntary organisations. They would seek to attract private sector participation.

This was a concentrated and targeted effort to be led by a team of Ministers from the Departments of Employment, Education, Trade and Industry, Environment and the Home Office.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, would have overall responsibility for coordination of the initiative and he (Mr Clarke) would have responsibility for its day to day management and supervision with the support of a small central unit.

The eight areas chosen were: Notting Hill and North Peckham in London; the Chapeltown area of Leeds; North Central/Middlesbrough; the Highfields area of Leicester; Moss Side in Manchester; St Paul's in Bristol; and Handsworth in Birmingham.

Within the chosen areas (he said) we shall try out new approaches, particularly in training provision, and employment and self-employment opportunities for local residents. This will be tackled through projects and activities of wider but direct benefit to the residents of the areas concerned and their environment.

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Geoffrey Smith

Sir Robert Armstrong's appearance before the Defence Select Committee on Wednesday was an occasion of considerable political importance. He did not bring the Westland saga to an end.

That would have been impossible. But I suspect that he may have reduced the pitch of the controversy to a lower level at which it may cease to dominate public affairs as it has for the past two months.

There are a great many people who remain unconvinced by Mrs Thatcher's explanation of the leak of the Solicitor-General's letter. This is clear from the opinion polls.

I am sceptical as to whether Sir Robert will have removed many of these uncertainties. But he raised no fresh doubts. Nobody who found Mrs Thatcher's version plausible before would be likely to find it any less convincing now. No new issues emerged for the critics to pursue.

Had he stonewalled as Mr Britton did last week, the demand for further civil service witnesses to be brought before the committee would have been irresistible. But his answers to questions were meticulous, subtle and occasionally ingenious in their phrasing. He did himself and the committee credit by taking it seriously.

He has also made it much less likely that the committee will now require other officials to appear in person. Indeed, the committee now has a delicate choice, which it is wisely going to ponder.

Sir Robert appeared to draw a distinction between the attitude of officials in the Prime Minister's office and in the Department of Trade and Industry. The latter were concerned about the propriety of what they were being asked to do. The former, he seemed to imply, displayed no such constitutional sensitivity.

This might justify the committee at least calling upon Mr Bernard Ingham to give evidence before it. But when the purpose of interrogation is to elucidate a misunderstanding, would it really make much sense to question only the person at one end of the telephone? If Mr Ingham, why not Miss Colette Bowe? If the press secretaries, why not the private secretaries as well?

A reasonable case in logic could, therefore, be made for calling upon a succession of further official witnesses. But the committee has to deal in politics as well as in logic, and it has to beware of the feeling that it is over-reaching itself.

Already the criticism is lessening, and the leak is really no business of the Defence Committee. A growing number of Conservative members are becoming nervous over the possible effect of the committee's activities on the party's electoral fortunes, and parliamentary opinion would certainly swing against the committee if it was thought to be indulging in a witchhunt.

Up to now the committee has asserted its authority effectively. For an obviously anxious Cabinet Secretary to be grilled for nearly three hours without a trace of bureaucratic smugness was, in its way, a landmark in the history of the select committee system.

But the House of Commons is ambivalent about its relatively new select committees. They are appreciated as a valuable addition to the armoury of the legislature.

But they also attract a fair amount of resentment, partly from the jealousy of those who are not prepared to devote their time to such work and partly because they are accused of diverting attention from the floor of the House.

Every active committee therefore has to guard against the accusation that it is getting above itself. For that reason, I suspect that after Sir Robert's performance the Defence Select Committee will, on reflection, do no more than possibly call for written evidence from Mr Ingham and perhaps Miss Bowe.

If so, that would much reduce the chances of further drama, and it is new dramatic developments not the repetition of old accusations that will be needed to keep the Westland saga running with its former intensity.

I think a stage may now have been reached when, unless something new occurs, it will no longer be the direct impact of Westland that will matter but the indirect effect upon the authority of ministers.

Labour ridicule initiative for inner cities

EMPLOYMENT

Eight inner city areas have been chosen for an initiative aimed at improving job opportunities and the quality of life, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and chief Commons spokesman on employment, announced in the Commons.

In the teeth of loud laughter and jeering from Labour MPs, he said he hoped the House would welcome this bold experiment which would have £3 million of additional money comprising £3 million from within the Department of Employment's existing provision and £5 million from the reserve.

Mr Clarke said small "task forces" would be established in each of the areas to work with the local authorities and local community and voluntary organisations. They would seek to attract private sector participation.

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Lone fight to save storm-lashed seals

The great Atlantic rollers, whipped up by savage winter storms, have been exacting a terrible toll among the diminishing colonies of seals which live and breed in the secret coves of Cornwall.

The storms have coincided with the breeding season and have been strongest when the new-born seals are most vulnerable. Dozens of pups have been swept off the rocks, away from their mothers on whom they are totally dependent.

Unable to feed and easy prey to gulls and other predators, most would die were it not for the efforts of a former miner who has made it his life's work to save them.

For Ken Jones, it started almost thirty years ago when a young seal was washed up near the cafe he ran with his wife Mary at St Agnes. Since then, his battle to save the seals has taken him to the edge of bankruptcy and involved costly battles with local authorities.

When the bathub in his cafe and the small pool he built could no longer cope, he overcame local opposition to establish his seal sanctuary at Gweek, in the beautiful Helford estuary.

This frightened, snapping seals rescued from the rocks and carried on precarious cliff paths, are cared for until strong enough to be transferred to recuperation pools.

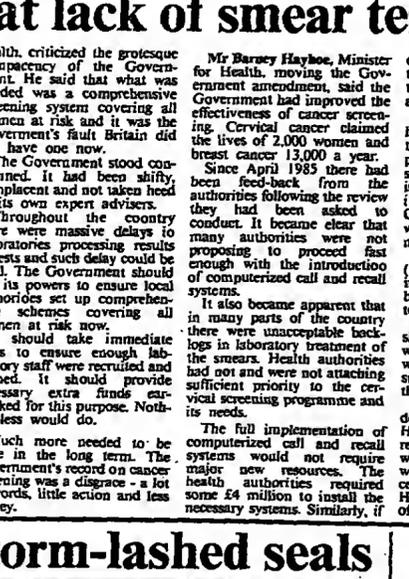
Most quickly become sleek, confident adults and are returned to the shore at the point where they were found. Others are destined to remain in the sanctuary for life, too ill to be able to fend for themselves.

Mr Jones intends to build four breeding pools where the "lifers" will produce pups.

"There are only about 240 seals left around the Cornish and Devon coasts and unless their numbers are replenished they will die out. Apart from the establishment, some are drowned by the two-mile-long nets used by trawlers and others are deliberately killed by fishermen who claim they are depleting fish stocks."

Before he can build his pools, Mr Jones needs to find about £400,000. To raise some of the money he is preparing to sell his collection of Victorians.

Housed in the old school at Mullion, Cornwall, the collection is the envy of many established museums.



Feeding time for rescued seals in the sanctuary at Gweek where Mr Jones hopes to build four new pools

Acquitted miner loses plea

A miner who was dismissed five weeks ago after being cleared of the ambush murder of Mr David Wilkie, a taxi driver, during the coal strike has lost his claim for unfair dismissal.

Mr Anthony Williams, aged 27, was acquitted at Cardiff Crown Court last May of murder and conspiracy, but was later dismissed for gross misconduct from Markham Pit, Gwent.

At a Cardiff industrial tribunal, Mr Williams, now unemployed, of Ty-coch, Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, claimed the decision was unreasonable as he had been cleared in court.

Mr Williams said he walked away before a concrete fence post and block were thrown off a bridge at the taxi. But Mr David Powell, the chairman, announcing the hearing's majority decision, said his conduct went beyond lawful picketing.

"He went too far in the enterprise and was with the others from first to last, except while they were on the bridge to push over the concrete post and block."

London and A... 20

50 من الأصل

Spanish admiral murdered in street

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Vice-Admiral Cristóbal Colón, a direct descendant of Christopher Columbus, was assassinated in a grenade attack on his car in Madrid yesterday as he was being driven to Spanish naval headquarters.

His driver, Señor Miguel Trigo Manzo, was also killed, and an aide with him in the car, Major Antonio Rodríguez Núñez, was seriously injured.

Eye-witnesses said that a young couple — immediately suspected of belonging to ETA, the armed Basque separatist organization — fled after throwing the grenade and machine-gunning the admiral's car.

Crowds gathered near the site, chanting "We want guns against ETA." King Juan Carlos sent his condolences to the family.

Police chased a car along one of the capital's motorways into the old city centre and surrounded a building where they thought one of the killers was hiding.

Admiral Colón, aged 61, 17th Duke of Veragua, the title Spain's King bestowed on Columbus for his discoveries, and twice Grande of Spain, was travelling from his home to headquarters, where he worked as a serving officer.

Fifty-four senior Spanish service officers have been assassinated since December, 1973, when an ETA command in a Madrid street blew up



A Spanish Navy captain walking past the body of Vice-Admiral Colón in Madrid.

Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, who was then Franco's Prime Minister.

General Abel Barahona, head of Spain's cultural department, has been sacked by Señor Narcis Serra, the

Defence Minister, after publication of an official army history praising the 1981 right-wing coup attempt. The minister had written a preface.

branch of the Pynduban Bank in this Basque city, damaging the building and three parked cars, police said yesterday (Reuter reports). An anonymous caller had warned the police. There were no injuries.

Museveni sticks to pledge on Cabinet

From Richard Dowden Kampala

President Museveni of Uganda has fulfilled his pledge to form a broad-based Government by bringing members from all parties, regions, and religions into his Cabinet.

Mr Paul Ssemogerere, the Democratic Party leader, retains his position as Minister for Internal Affairs, to which he was appointed by the Okello Administration last August.

The Democratic Party now has five seats in the Cabinet compared with six in the Okello Government. The Ugandan People's Congress, the party of former President Obote which was shattered in the July coup, has three members in the Cabinet.

Surprisingly, Mr Museveni met Mr Paulo Muwanga, Dr Obote's vice-president, as part of a Ugandan People's Congress delegation this week even though he had named him as being responsible for some of the atrocities committed during the Obote period. Mr Muwanga was not given a Cabinet post.

Fifteen of the 30 ministers named so far are from Mr Museveni's National Resistance Movement, but places have been found for the leaders of Freedom and the Uganda Freedom Movement, two small guerrilla organizations which fought the Obote Government but were bigger rivals of the NRM. The National Resistance Army is disarming these guerrilla groups.

The new Foreign Minister is Mr Ibrahim Mjilibi, a career diplomat who served as ambassador to Moscow, Cairo, and Denmark before resigning in 1982 in protest at the Obote Administration's human rights record.

The Cabinet is intended to be an interim one which will administer the country until a constitutional conference draws up a plan for elections.

The north of the country is still held by forces of the previous government, and the NRA's advance seems to have halted, either to allow for negotiations or to enable more NRA forces to get to the front line. It is expected that troops loyal to Brigadier Basilio Okello, the former chief of staff, will make a stand.

The Philippines election Showdown for Marcos and Aquino as troops go on red alert

From David Watts, Manila

The Philippines goes to the polls today for the most vital election in the country's history.

Throughout the country the feeling of a turning point is almost palpable, whoever turns out to be the winner.

In normal times Manila is a city of rumours, but these are not normal times and the harvest of speculation and false is richer than ever.

An air of foreboding has been heightened by an interview which President Marcos gave to local television last night. He said the Government would use "legitimate force to defend itself" if it continued to face threats of violence and vote-buying by the Opposition.

On the best evidence both charges appear to be figments of the presidential imagination.

None the less, with 51 people already killed during the campaign, with few areas free of the threat of violence from gun-toting political private armies, the Philippines armed forces are on red alert.

In this atmosphere, Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the US Senate foreign relations committee, who is leading an observation team appointed by President Reagan, began its work yesterday.

Though greeted by a newspaper advertisement accusing

him of gunboat diplomacy, the Senator explained: "Our mission is not to judge, enforce or arbitrate — simply to observe the work of good friends." He appealed to all involved to make sure that the Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) obtains results as quickly as possible so that "all of us will know as rapidly as possible what has occurred".

His group is just part of the 60 or so foreign observers of the election, who include Mr John Hulme, the SDLP MP from Northern Ireland.

With thousands of local officials and politicians dependent on the continuation of Mr Marcos in power, the 25,000 Namfrel volunteers have a formidable task in trying to ensure an honest election. In Manila alone 600

nuns will be deployed at polling stations in the hope that their presence will deter the use of force.

Much will depend on the honesty and goodwill of Government officials from the Commission on Elections. Before each return is reported to Manila it must be verified and co-signed by both Namfrel and the Commission representative.

Namfrel succeeded in forestalling many frauds in the 1984 election because its more honest reports reached

the capital first and provided a yardstick for the subsequent Government version.

Mr Jose Concepcion, the Namfrel chairman, is under no illusion that crucial concessions have had to be made, but "if I had not done this they would have discredited us completely".

General Fidel Ramos, commander-in-chief of the Philippines constabulary and the integrated national police force, said that of the 74 provinces only nine were not designated as "hot spots" where the potential for violence and electoral fraud was high.

He said: "At no time in our history has a national decision-making process been so vital." General Ramos knows that whichever way the election goes the potential for upheaval has never been greater.

If Mr Marcos loses he may not go quietly. There are rumours of a yacht waiting in Hong Kong if he should find Mrs Corason Aquino has an unsurmountable plurality, but few believe he would take that option.

Yet if Mr Marcos wins, many people will not be inclined to believe it. The full results may not be known for a week, with a consequent dangerous spell of uncertainty and frustration.

Austrian wine trade halved after scandal

Vienna — Austrian wine exports fell by almost half last year after the discovery of the anti-freeze agent diethylene-glycol in wines (Richard Bassett writes).

A survey commissioned by the Society of Austrian Wine-growers and published yesterday shows that Austria exported only 270,000 litres of wine in 1985, compared with 478,000 in 1984.

Thirteen per cent fewer Austrians were drinking wine, and nearly a third of all wholesalers admitted that their confidence in the industry had been "shattered".

Guerrilla war alert in Ecuador

From Geoffrey Matthews Bogotá

Ecuador this week militarized its frontier with Colombia while guerrillas from both countries continued fierce hit-and-run actions over an extensive area of southern Colombia.

The Quito Government moved troops to the border as six battalions of the Colombian Army continued what military sources described as "virtual war" with guerrillas in the sparsely populated Andes of the Cauca department.

The guerrilla force, believed to number several hundred, is commanded by leaders of the Colombian,



April 19 movement (M19). Earlier this week they briefly seized the small town of Morales in Cauca before being driven out.

In several hours' combat, 25 guerrillas and three police officers were killed. The total

death toll in clashes in Cauca over the last two weeks was believed to be more than 60.

Ecuadorian troops took up positions along the frontier in an apparent attempt to cut off 100 guerrillas reported to be trying to enter Colombia's Southern Narino department to join up with the force led by M19.

It was also reported that three British journalists had been detained in Popayan, capital of the Cauca department, after a clandestine interview with members of a French television team.

The French were arrested in similar circumstances but later allowed to leave the country.

US pressures Athens on bases

From Mario Mediano, Athens

A high-ranking US State Department official has been in Athens this week sounding out the Socialist Government on the prospects for the cost of their improvement, or make arrangements for their transfer in Greece after the present bases agreement expires in 1988.

Mrs Rozanne Ridgway, Assistant Secretary of State for European affairs, told Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and his ministers yesterday of the urgency felt in Washington over the issue.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who is due to visit Athens next month, has made it publicly clear

that he would like an early reply so that, if the bases remain, the United States can budget for the cost of their improvement, or make arrangements for their transfer — probably to Turkey or Italy.

Under existing arrangements, the Greek Government may in July, 1988, exercise an option to terminate the agreement and ask the United States to dismantle the bases.

These include a support base at Athens airport, a naval communications centre at Marathon and air and naval facilities in Suda Bay, Crete.

The Papandreu Government is ideologically committed to removing all foreign bases from Greece. However, the Prime Minister refuses to commit himself publicly on whether he will exercise his option to remove the bases.

Mr Papandreu is known to have reassured the Americans privately that the bases will stay. But he does not wish to be rushed.

The Americans want a firmer commitment now, and the possibility that either side should denounce the present agreement to initiate a new round of interminable negotiations as a way out has been aired.

IMAGING

Image-processing technology was first applied in the 60's and 70's to create clear images of the Earth and Mars, and to locate natural resources via satellite. Yet it was Hitachi's entry into this exciting new field that made high-accuracy imaging possible. In less than ten years, Hitachi-developed systems reduced absolute location error to a world-record 80 metres. Then 30 metres. And the innovations had only just begun.

You can see where with software

Today, Hitachi's imaging skills are being applied in ever-widening variety. Remote-sensing satellite systems aid fisheries by detecting differences in ocean water temperatures and displaying likely fishing zones as colour-coded maps on CRT screens. Robots mounted on crawlers are able to move around and "see" much like humans do through combinations of cameras and computers that can calculate distances to objects.

In fact, we are constantly coming up with innovations and new applications. Most recently: A method of probing the human body with X-ray computed tomography, then reconstructing the data obtained as three-dimensional colour images of internal organs, muscles and bones.

The best of worlds is yet to come

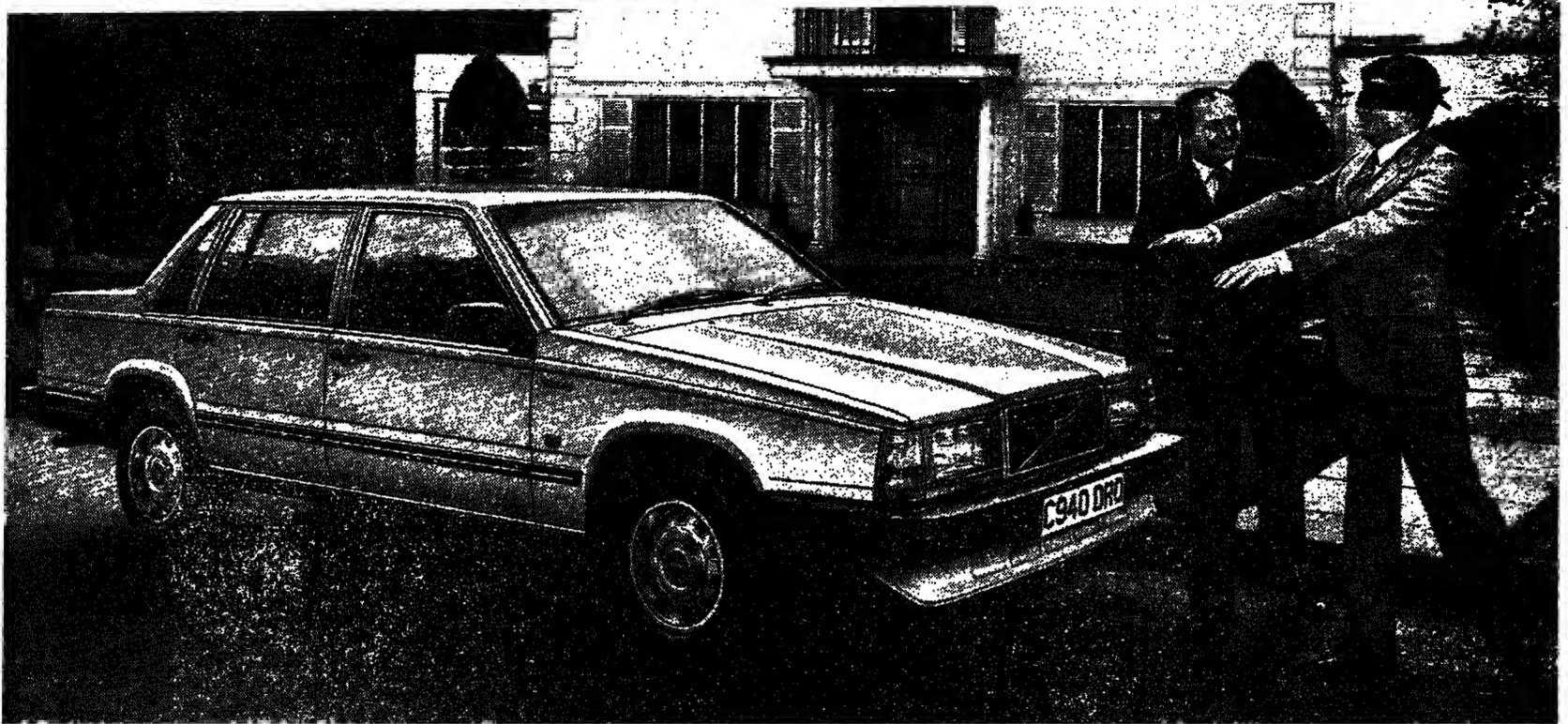
Our vision of the future includes computerized 3-D simulations of surgical operations. Instant imaging of internal medical problems, such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases. Three-dimensional charts of inaccessible terrain. Remote mapping of Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and the other planets of our solar system. And much, much more.

We'd like you to share in the benefits of our scientific research, covering the next generation of new materials, lasers and other electronic devices. For improved business efficiency. For a higher quality of life. Two goals we've pursued for 75 years as part of our commitment to a better world through electronics.

WE BELIEVE IMAGING GIVES EYES TO HUMAN IMAGINATION

HITACHI

IF YOU COULD TEST-DRIVE IT BLINDFOLD, WOULD YOU GUESS WHAT CAR IT WAS?



We wouldn't recommend this experiment for real, but it's an interesting hypothesis nevertheless. Imagine it.

The salesman guides you into the driver's seat. It feels reassuringly firm, yet so comfortable it could have been made specially for you.

(In fact, it has an adjustable lumbar support and a 16-position height and rake adjustment.)

The door closes with an effortless clunk.

"IT'S A MERCEDES?"

Good guess, but the wrong one.

Somehow, you can sense the feeling of spaciousness inside the car.

Your hands fall naturally onto the steering wheel, and your feet onto the pedals.

You switch on the ignition. The engine fires instantaneously, dying to a barely audible purr.

"A DAIMLER, PERHAPS?"

Perhaps, yes. But actually, no.

As you pull away from the kerb (don't worry, the salesman gives you directions) you notice the lightness and precision of the power steering.

You accelerate briskly through the gears, enjoying the smooth power of the engine.

This car is no slouch.

"IT'S ONE OF THOSE BIG BMW'S?"

No it isn't.

The salesman, feeling rather pleased with himself, helps you with a few clues.

He tells you about the car's welded box-

steel construction, and the 9 coats of paint and primer that protect the bodywork.

He mentions the 13-outlet heating and ventilation system, the 17.2 cubic foot boot, the central locking.

You can feel the power-assisted brakes for yourself.

"A JAGUAR?"

Wrong again.

Against your better judgement, you start to lower your sights a bit. You did, after all, mention a price limit of £11,000.

But what car of that sort of price could give you this sort of ride?

Unable to contain your curiosity any longer, you pull into the kerb and pull off the blindfold.

"A VOLVO! I KNEW I COULDN'T AFFORD IT!"

Yes, it's a Volvo. The 740 GL, to be precise. And yes, you can afford it.

Amazingly, the car you thought could have been a Mercedes costs only £10,271.

You turn to the salesman sitting beside you. In one hand, he has an order form for a brand new Volvo 740GL.

In the other, a pen.

Despite his presumptuousness, you sign.

To: Volvo, Springfield House, Princess Street, Bristol BS3 4EF
For a brochure, phone (0272) 217082 or post the coupon.

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Postcode

THE 1986 VOLVO 740. FROM £10,271.

Pik Botha foresees day of black president ruling in South Africa

From Michael Hornsby Cape Town

A black president of South Africa is the unavoidable and inevitable outcome of the negotiating process set in train by President Botha in his speech opening the 1986 parliamentary session last week, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Southern Africa, that he could not suggest a timetable for the process because blacks themselves did not speak with one voice and represented a variety of points of view. Nor could there be any solution if minorities were left without any protection.

"We are not in principle against the principle of one-man-one-vote," he said. "We are against the principle if it means that it would put in power a force, an entity that will again dominate others to the extent where the others will rebel and start the conflict all over again."

Mr Botha was asked at this point whether he would serve under a black president. "If in terms of the structures to be jointly agreed upon (with black leaders), that (a black president) is made possible, how can I be against it?" he replied. "I cannot go and say that we are going to share power and then try to do it my way only."

"In that power-sharing pro-



Mr "Pik" Botha gave no timetable for black rule, each group, each community, each interest group, is of course going to bargain for the maximum. "As long as we can agree, in a suitable way, on the protection of minority rights without a racial sting - let me make it clear - as soon as we are agreed on that, then we have the security, and

then it would possibly become unavoidable that in future you might have black presidents of this country. If blacks share in the power of this country, that to me becomes an inevitable result in the future as long as minorities feel safe."

Mr Botha is regarded as the leader of the most reformist faction within the Pretoria Cabinet, and is also one of the two or three leading contenders for the succession to President Botha, who was 70 last month.

The clearest evidence of the Government's desire to share power with blacks, he said, was the President's proposal for a "national statutory council" in which black leaders "for the first time in the history of this country (would have) a direct voice in the government."

Mr Botha put a far more liberal and far-reaching gloss on the President's proposals than had his rival for the presidential succession, Mr F.W. De Klerk, Minister for National Education and powerful provincial leader of the ruling National Party in Transvaal, two days before.

He said that the National Party would maintain the compulsory racial segregation of residential areas and schools as long as it was in power. Mr Botha conceded that this was party policy "as it stands", but implied that this and all other matters would be subject to negotiation in the proposed council.

Miners die in fight
Johannesburg (Reuter) - Six black gold miners were killed and 34 were injured in tribal fighting at hostels at the Western Deep Levels mine near Johannesburg, the Anglo-American Corporation said. The mine was reported to be tense but quiet.

EEC farm prices may be frozen

From A Correspondent, Brussels

The European Commission has proposed a virtual freeze on next season's agricultural prices in an attempt to discourage further over-production.

But the price package comes with a set of much tougher measures which, if approved by Community agriculture ministers in the spring, would hit British farmers the hardest and put a heavy burden on European consumers and taxpayers.

Under the scheme, the shop price of butter would fall by 1p while the price of a pound of cheese would rise by 2p. The price of beef in Britain and Ireland would rise by 3p or 4p a pound over the next two years as the special EEC subsidy benefiting consumers and farmers is phased out.

But the taxpayer would have to foot the bill for the surplus disposal scheme announced along with the package by Mr Frans Andriessen, the Agriculture Commissioner - a £1.8 billion scheme to sell the bulk of a £6 billion food mountain over three years.

Mr Andriessen said he hoped 270,000 tonnes of ageing butter stocks and 200,000 tonnes of frozen beef from EEC cold stores could be sold to non-EEC countries in 1986 alone.

He described the surpluses, which now include more than 1.1 million tonnes of butter and 750,000 tonnes of beef, as a "time bomb" which will blow apart the common agriculture policy if not sold without disrupting the market.

The Commissioner warned the cost of exporting the surpluses would force the Commission to demand an

extra £450 million for 1986, despite savings, it would realize by freezing prices and changing the rules of farm price support.

The Commission has proposed a £3.30 levy per tonne on all cereals marketed, except for the first 25 tonnes per farmer; 5 per cent and 9 per cent cuts respectively in the prices of feed wheat and feed barley; a price freeze applying only to bread-making wheat and malted barley; and restrictions on the quantities sold to EEC stores by grain and beef farmers when market prices are unattractive.

● LONDON: Mr Simon Goulay, deputy president of the National Farmers Union, yesterday estimated that the proposed measures would cut farm gate prices for wheat and barley by 12 and 15 per cent respectively (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

While he said he favoured an element of price restraint and acknowledged the need to place the emphasis on better quality grains, the proposed co-responsibility levy would be very difficult to administer and very easy to evade.

Miss Ann Davison, of the Consumers in the European Community Group, described the levy as a "bread tax", saying the price of bread was already artificially high because of levies on imported wheat.

A conference in London this week was told that the cost of the common agricultural policy had risen in real terms by 7 per cent a year for the last 10 years and was at present equivalent to nearly £2 a day per family of four.

Dissident 'expelled as a spy'

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Mr Anatoly Shcharansky is to be released by the Soviet Union because he is a convicted spy and traitor and not because he is a Jewish dissident, according to Victor Louis, the Moscow-based journalist.

Mr Louis, often fed information by the Soviet authorities, said he had learned in the West, told the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharanot, that Mr Shcharansky was being expelled rather than being granted an exit visa.

According to Mr Louis's Soviet sources, the US wanted Dr Andrei Sakharov included in the spy swap, but this was rejected because he was not considered a spy.

Mr Shcharansky, however, was convicted of handing confidential documents to a correspondent of The New York Times, including details of experiments into parapsychology, codes on secret Soviet post office boxes and addresses of scientific and military installations.

"From our point of view Shcharansky is a spy," Mr Louis was told. "On the basis of that, we are releasing him and not because he is a Jewish activist."

The journalist said Mr Shcharansky was still not aware of his imminent release. But it seems his wife, Avital, was told he was to be freed several days before rumours began to circulate - she left her Jerusalem home and went into hiding.

The Israeli Government said it has no official word on his release.

Because he was convicted of spying for the United States, he may be flown directly there.



Police at the Gare de Lyon railway station in central Paris checking a traveller's plastic bags during intensive security measures imposed after this week's bomb attacks.

French widen bomb watch

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France yesterday stepped up security throughout the capital and at airports and important rail stations across the country after bomb attacks in Paris in which 21 people were injured.

Rumours continued to circulate here yesterday linking the most recent attacks, together with two others in Paris department stores just before Christmas, to Middle East groups directly or indirectly involved in negotiations with the French Government to secure the release of four French hostages in Lebanon in return for the release of Arab terrorists imprisoned in France.

The French Government is refusing to comment on who may have been responsible for the attacks. M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, who called an emergency meeting yesterday morning of the four ministers most directly involved in the fight against terrorism, said that the Government had received no demands in relation to the French hostages in Lebanon.

With the French general election only five weeks away, the Opposition has been quick to extract the maximum political capital out of the attacks.

M Michel Poniatowski, the Interior Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, accused President Mitterrand of being "in part responsible" for terrorism in France because of his decision to liberate the leaders of the extreme-left French terrorist group, Action Directe, as part

of his general amnesty for political prisoners on coming to power in 1981.

A man aged 27 had his left leg amputated yesterday because of injuries received during the bombing of the FNAC sports shop in the Forum Des Halles, the largest shopping complex in Paris, on Wednesday evening. Five of the eight others injured in the blast are still in hospital, but were said yesterday to be in no danger.

The attack followed two other Paris bomb attacks - one at the Gilbert Jeune book shop in the heart of the Latin Quarter on Tuesday evening, in Paris, and one at the Palais de la Paix in Paris on Friday. It is also claimed that the 34-year-old President and his family and advisers are in some turmoil.

Greece, Spain and Switzerland have announced their refusal of requests from the President for sanctuary. The spread of this news and the idea that the President has considered making a run for it are bound to be damaging. He looks increasingly a prisoner in the palace where he has lived most of his life.

Part of his unpopularity lies in the return to a position of great influence of Haiti's mixed-race elite, who are about 5 per cent of the six million population.

The President's father, Papa Doc Duvalier, was initially popular because he wrested power from the black majority when he took over in 1957. This struck an important chord, a reminder of the country's birth when black slaves threw out their French masters in 1804 and set up the world's first black republic.

Jordan has given warning that it may now turn to the Soviet Union to buy weapons to fulfil its military needs. This would be seen here as a grave setback to relations between Washington and Amman.

As originally proposed by the White House, the arms package included advanced F16 fighter planes and mobile Hawk air defence missiles, totalling \$1.9 billion. The White House then withdrew the missiles, lowering the value to \$1.5 billion. But more than 80 senators and 270 members of the House of Representatives had pledged to oppose the package.

Trial plea in Walesa case fails

Warsaw (Reuter) - Poland's Supreme Court yesterday rejected a plea by lawyers representing the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, that a lower court should handle his forthcoming trial on charges of slandering officials.

Mr Walesa's lawyers had said that the trial should be held in a lower court because the gravity of his charges did not warrant a hearing by the higher, provincial court.

But the Supreme Court ruled that the trial, on February 11, must be held in the Gdansk provincial court, a court spokesman said. Mr Walesa is accused of slandering election officials by disputing official voting figures.

The Government has indicated charges against him could be dropped if he stated he had not intended to defame election officials.

Senate blocks Husain \$1.5bn arms package

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration has postponed indefinitely its proposed \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) arms sale to Jordan after being told bluntly by the Senate foreign relations committee it would be rejected in the Senate.

The decision was taken to prevent a bitter fight between Congress and the White House and save King Husain from humiliation. Nevertheless, the King is bound to feel slighted, especially after Administration assurances that it considered his arms requests legitimate.

The Reagan Administration insisted last October that the sale was "essential to create the conditions for a lasting Middle East peace."

But the Senate, with its large pro-Israeli majority, insisted that Jordan must take the initiative in opening direct talks with Israel before any arms deal could be considered.

Spain steps up fight to recover Goya portrait

By Geraldine Norman and Richard Wigg

Evidence of how export documents may have been falsified when Goya's masterpiece, the "Marquesa de Santa Cruz", left Spain in 1983 emerged yesterday. The Spanish authorities are attempting to recover the picture, which they say was illegally exported, before it is auctioned by Christie's in London on April 11.

The painting was flown from Madrid to Zurich in April 1983 by Señor Pedro Saorin, a Spanish businessman. It was then bought by Lord Wimborne's agent for "a significant" but undisclosed price. Commenting on documents which Lord Wimborne now has in his possession and which have been shown to The Times, a senior official at Spain's Ministry of Culture, said that one of them bore the name of a non-existent government department.

In another announcement the ministry gave the name of the lawyer currently acting on its behalf as Señor Rodrigo Uria. This was the man whose name Lord Wimborne's agent had used for the past 18 months. "We gave him copies of the export documents," Lord Wimborne said. Secret negotiations were conducted in Paris with Señor Uria for the repurchase of the



The signatures on Lord Wimborne's export documents. Left, the Ministry of Culture rubber stamp and signature which appear at the bottom of a Ministry of Education and Science document and, right, the stamp and the signature on the licence itself issued by the Ministry of Economics and Commerce.

Education and Science directorate general of fine arts. However, the rubber stamp over which the form has been signed is of the Ministry of Culture.

The signature over the rubber stamp has not yet been deciphered and it is unclear whether it is forged. Señor Sastrategui, detailing the procedure, said that for a work of art such as Goya's painting to have been exported legally "at least" three accompanying official documents were required, all with the appropriate stamps and authorized signatures.

The painting should have first had the "expediente" (file) approved by the Culture Ministry's director-general of fine arts after receiving the written approval of a special fine arts committee set up to evaluate works of art more than 100 years old before they can leave the country.

There was no such approval from the Ministry of Culture, he said categorically. The file would then pass to the Economics and Finance Ministry for a second authorization and thirdly there would have to be a separate signed declaration that the export was in order from Spanish Customs.

It was disclosed that Madrid had engaged lawyers headed by Sir Matthew Farrer in London to advise it in the case. Asked about Lord Wimborne's reported remarks that he was awaiting an offer for the Goya from the Spanish Government, Señor Sastrategui observed: "Those may be his words, but he goes on keeping that painting in Christie's sale catalogue."

According to reports in Madrid, Señor Saorin, who handled the export of the painting, is now in prison in Buenos Aires, facing fraud charges relating to other matters.

Shuttle inquiry switched

From Mobsin Ali Washington

Investigations into the explosion on board the shuttle Challenger were yesterday moved to Washington for the first public meeting of President Reagan's special commission on the disaster.

The day-long session of the 13-member panel, headed by Mr William Rogers, the former Secretary of State and former Attorney-General, was due to hear from NASA's interim board of inquiry into the January 28 explosion.

The panel has to give its final report to President Reagan within 120 days. It is being assisted by NASA.

Meanwhile, search crews working off Cape Canaveral are trying to identify a large metal object 1,100 feet under water which NASA experts think might be a large section of the starboard booster rocket that flared irregularly before Challenger exploded.

Recovery of the booster would be invaluable to the investigation because it is thought a flaw, perhaps in the seals between the rocket's fuel segments or at the point where the segments were joined, may have allowed a flame to leak out.

Traders harden defiance in Haiti

From Trevor Fishlock Port-au-Prince

President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier was fighting to retain control of Haiti yesterday. His position was undermined by continued resistance in the business community and the spread of news that he had been refused asylum by three European countries.

It, as seems to be happening, Haiti's commercial class is hardening its defiance, his dictatorship looks increasingly unstable.

The President (Baby Doc) is using tough measures to force businessmen who have shut their shops and factories to re-open. But the very harshness of these measures is evidence of his desperation. Businessmen who stay closed are held to be unpatriotic and can be jailed for five months, fined, and their businesses seized.

It is hard to gauge the extent of the resistance. Many offices and shops are closed, others open. Some businessmen are treading a fine line between defiance, which requires considerable courage, and compliance.

Some tell the authorities they are afraid to open because of the threat of violence in the tense atmosphere. Some are opening, but with an evident lack of enthusiasm. Toussaint Macoute are in the streets, brandishing guns and exuding menace.

The opposition of the commercial class is a significant aspect of the unravelling of the Duvalier regime. Last month, in a carefully worded letter, the Association des Industries d'Haiti wrote to the President saying it was impossible for businessmen to play a full role in "a climate of tension and fear". Urging the introduction of democracy, the association said: "It is impossible for us to ignore the discontent tearing Haitian society apart."

While there can only be speculation about what is happening behind the walls of the Duvalier palace in Port-au-Prince, it is plain that the 34-year-old President and his family and advisers are in some turmoil.

Greece, Spain and Switzerland have announced their refusal of requests from the President for sanctuary. The spread of this news and the idea that the President has considered making a run for it are bound to be damaging. He looks increasingly a prisoner in the palace where he has lived most of his life.

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Moscow throws out two Italians

Rome (UPI) - Two Italians have been expelled from Moscow in a tit-for-tat response to Italy's expulsion of two Soviet officials for spying, Soviet officials and Italian sources said yesterday.

Sources here said that the expelled Italians were Signor Luigi Mamiolo, aged 29, First Secretary at the Italian Embassy in Moscow since 1983, and Signor Marco Vianello, who has represented the Italian steel-making group Finsider here for 10 years.

Italy had expelled a Soviet Embassy official and the station chief of the Soviet airline Aeroflot. France expelled four Soviet diplomats from Paris on Saturday. In retaliation, the Soviet Union ordered four French diplomats to leave Moscow.

204 rebels die
Khartoum (Reuter) - Sudanese troops killed 204 rebel of the Ethiopian-backed Sudan People's Liberation Army who attacked their convoy carrying garrison pa and supplies 550 miles south of Khartoum, military officials said.

Police purge
Guatemala City (UPI) - Three weeks after taking office, President Vinicio Cerros dissolved Guatemala's feared secret police and said he would prosecute officers suspect of human rights abuses.

Farm suicide
Waynesboro, Georgia (UPI) - Mr Lennard Hill, 67-year-old farmer unable pay a \$62,000 (£44,000) del killed himself just 20 minutes before his 711-acre farm was to be auctioned at the court house.

Spy flight
Havana (AP) - Gen. Raul Castro, the brother Cuba's President, interrupt the Communist Party congress here with the announcement that the United States had sent a spy plane to Cuba.

Japan alert
Tokyo (AP) - Two Japanese Self-Defence Force jets scrambled to see of suspected Soviet aircraft which violated air space the northern island of Hokkaido, the Defence Agency said.

Titanic Bill
Washington (AP) - A aimed at encouraging national co-operation to reconstruct the wreck of the Titanic, discovered last 5 tember, has been introduced in the US Senate.

Leftists jailed
Navara (Reuter) - 1 members of Italy's left urban guerrilla group P2 Linea, convicted of robbery and murder, have been jailed for a total of 103 years. Prima Linea carried out a series of robberies and murders during the late 1 and early 1980s.

Study craze
Peking (AP) - Chi college graduates spend their time learning on their jobs well rather going abroad for advanced degrees, the People's Daily, complaining that nomic reforms had led "studying craze".

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González faces uphill battle to win backing for Nato membership

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Senor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, now has little more than five weeks of uphill campaigning before him to persuade a majority of his fellow countrymen to vote "Yes" to Spain's membership of Nato. Parliament approved a referendum on Wednesday night, and King Juan Carlos endorsed it yesterday.

The lines of battle were drawn in the vote: 207 for, 103 against, with the Basque and Catalan regionalists abstaining. Only the Communists, who will now be campaigning for a "No" vote, the tiny Centre Party of the former Prime Minister, Adolfo Suárez, which so wanted the referendum, and the Socialist Party, which will be leaving supporters to make up their own minds, are with the Socialists.

The right-wing Opposition, which really wants to go further than the Government to integrate Spain completely into Nato's military structure, voted "No", declining Mr González's offer to lay the basis of a future common defence policy for Spain. It will campaign to induce supporters to abstain on March 12.

"Many will be voting 'Yes'

who are against Nato and many will be voting 'No' who are for Nato," was the vivid summing up of the debate by Señor Miguel Roca, the Catalan leader, who confessed that he was still not sure what were the Prime Minister's real motives for holding a referendum.

Senor González has often confessed that he has



Señor Felipe González: his motives doubted

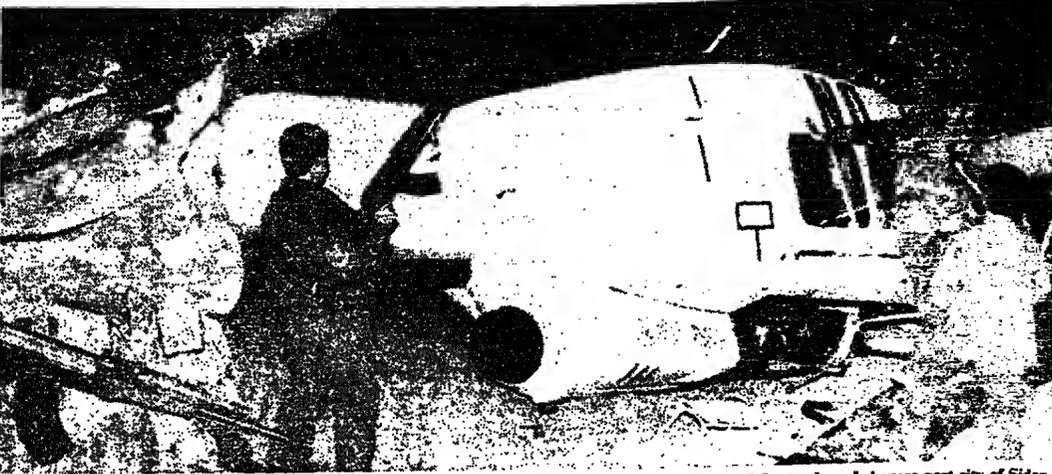
changed his mind about belonging to the Atlantic Alliance, and pleaded with the Spanish people to do likewise. He had to endure quotations from many of his past speeches against Nato, however, from Señor Manuel

Fraga, the opposition leader. But the Opposition nowhere probed what lies behind the Government's three conditions: non-integration into Nato's military structure, non-nuclear status for Spain, and a progressive reduction by the United States of its troops on Spanish soil.

With Spain's Socialist leadership converted to Nato and the opposition long convinced of Spain's need of it, but anxious now to inflict a humiliating defeat on Señor González in a general election year, the whole debate had a confused air.

It proved a relief to get away into Madrid's icy streets where anti-Nato demonstrators, overwhelmingly young people, at least were saying what they believed, however simplistically.

Almost everything has been left to the Spanish people to decide. *La Vanguardia*, the Barcelona daily newspaper, suggested even before the debate began that the best hope now is for the ordinary citizen to rescue the politicians from the mess they have got themselves into over Nato.



Sunni Muslim militiamen standing guard over the UN helicopter brought down by a hail of gunfire east of the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon.

Hail of militia gunfire downs UN helicopter

Beirut (AP) - The Italian pilot of a UN helicopter brought down in south Lebanon said yesterday that a hail of militia gunfire forced him to make an emergency landing that set his craft on fire.

It was the first time that Lebanese militia had shot down a UN helicopter since the nine-nation UN Interim Force in Lebanon was sent on a peacekeeping mandate to South Lebanon in 1978.

"Our planes have been shot at by various militias in war-torn Lebanon many times in the past. But this is the first time that gunfire forced a

crash landing of a UN helicopter," Unifil spokesman Mr Timur Goksel said.

Captain Dino Disanto said in South Lebanon's port city of Sidon after his release yesterday that the helicopter's engine, cockpit and starter were riddled with bullets when he made the emergency landing in a valley east of the city on Wednesday.

Captain Disanto was speaking at the Sidon headquarters of the Islamic Coalition Movement, a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim faction which claimed its fighters shot

down the UN craft by mistake.

The group held the six crew and passengers of the helicopter for eight hours before turning them over to the UN officials. An Islamic Coalition communiqué said that the three Italian crewmen and three Scandinavian passengers were handed over "safe and unharmed". They said their men had mistaken the craft for a South Lebanon Army helicopter.

Mr Goksel said that the passengers were the Finnish captain of the Finnish battalion, its paymaster and the Swedish battalion postmaster.

Captain Disanto said his helicopter was on a regular flight from Beirut to Unifil's headquarters at the Lebanese border town of Naqura when it was lashed by a windstorm west of Sidon and forced to veer eastward.

The freed peacekeepers headed overland to the Unifil's French battalion headquarters in Mtsarkeh, east of Lebanon's southernmost city of Tyre, where they spent the rest of the night after their release. They arrived for debriefing at Naqura yesterday.

Pope's visit to India

Plea for dialogue with all faiths

From Michael Hamlyn, Goa

The Pope yesterday renewed his appeal for unity among Christian denominations, while his staff were at the same time stressing that the new emphasis in the Pope's attitude was on dialogue with non-Christian religions.

The Pope's chief spokesman, Mr Joaquin Navarro Valls, pointed out as the Pope was speaking that his emphasis on dialogue with the non-Christians was a new strategy. "It is 20 years since the Second Vatican Council," said Mr Navarro. "And from then we have been working on ecumenism, on dialogue with other Christian confessions - Anglicans, Lutherans, and so on. That should continue."

"But the Holy Father feels that this is not enough. What is needed now is a profound dialogue with all the faiths of the world, so that we can agree on the main issues of man and mankind."

The Pope, in the course of remarks made at a celebration at Mangalore in the south Indian state of Karnataka, again urged Indians of faiths other than Christian to unite in dialogue. He said to representatives of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsees that their presence meant that they recognized "the need for all religious traditions to join hands against the forces which militate against the human and spiritual dignity of human beings".

Earlier, at Goa, he concentrated on the unity of Christians, saying that the past and present divisions among them were "a scandal to non-Christians, a glaring contradiction of the will of Christ, a serious obstacle to

the Church's efforts to proclaim the gospel."

He said that the work of ecumenism demanded constant effort, and that it began with the "primary unity" that already existed because of baptism.

"But we must be eager to work for the fullness of unity among the followers of Christ," he said at an early morning Mass on the banks of the River Mandovi. He praised the progress that had been achieved already.

In fact, Goa was a slightly odd place at which to be preaching about Christian unity. It was the first place to be converted by Roman Catholic missionaries from Europe and, since the first of the Portuguese arrived in 1500, has maintained a solidly Roman Catholic loyalty. The Archbishop of Goa was created patriarch of all the east Indian churches in the last century, and the number of Protestants in the territory would scarcely fill a Methodist chapel.

The Goan Catholics revere St Francis Xavier, the Jesuit missionary who arrived here in 1542 and whose mortal remains are in the Basilica of Dom Jesus in Old Goa. They go on public view every 12 years so that the faithful may marvel at the miraculous lack of corruption after 432 years.

The Pope will meet Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is also beginning a tour of India, at the weekend in Bombay.

When the Pope sent letters to the heads of other faiths inviting them to preach together on the peace of the world, Dr Runcie was the first to agree to come.

Spielberg film in the running for Oscar

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Steven Spielberg's first serious dramatic film, *The Colour Purple*, which has a cast of unknowns, and the \$30 million (£20 million) saga *Out of Africa*, starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, are front-runners for the 58th annual Oscar on March 24. Each picture has gathered 11 nominations.

However, Spielberg, even though he is one of the most successful directors in Hollywood history, has been overlooked personally, despite the many nominations for his film. Based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, it has received nominations for best actress (newcomer Whoopi Goldberg), best film, and best supporting actress, as well as other technical nods.

Out of Africa, based on the book by Karen Blixen, is nominated for best film, best director (Sydney Pollack), best actress (Meryl Streep, who has won two best actress trophies already), and best supporting actor, for Klaus Maria Brandauer.

Perhaps the most intriguing race is shaping up in the best actress category. Streep faces Goldberg, Ann Bancroft as the Mother Superior in *Agnes of God*, Jessica Lange as the Country and Western singer Patsy Cline in *Sweet Dreams*, and Geraldine Page as the elderly mother in the low-budget,



Whoopi Goldberg leading a cast of unknowns, highly acclaimed *Trip to Bonifant*.

In the best actor category the front-runner is Jack Nicholson, for his role as the dumb but likable hit man in *Prizzi's Honour*. Also in contention are Harrison Ford for his role in *Witness*; James Garner in *Murphy's Romance*; William Hurt in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; and Joe Voight in *Runaway Train*.

Prizzi's Honour, a black comedy directed by John Huston, also earned a best film and best director nomination, plus best supporting actress nomination for Huston's daughter, Angelica, and best supporting actor nomination for William Hickock, as the ageing Mafia don. Sir Richard Attenborough's *Chorus Line*, received three nominations.

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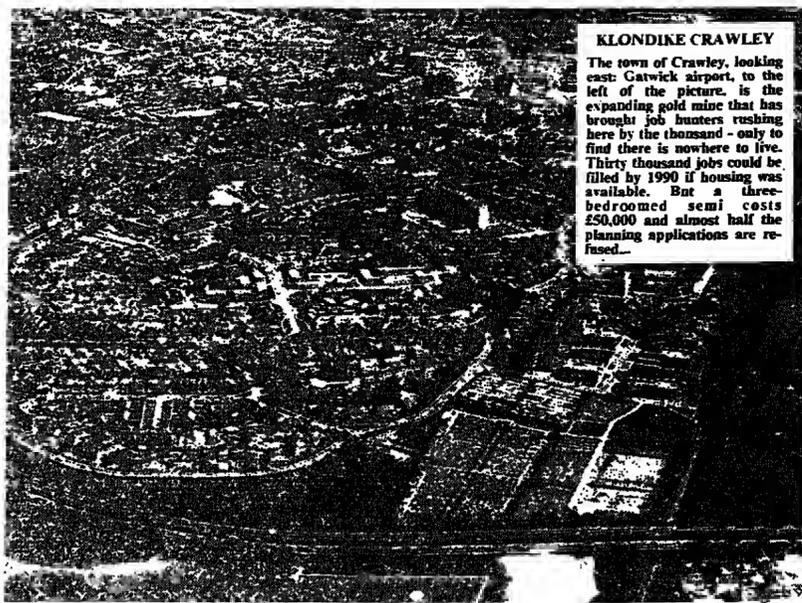
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As unemployment tops 3.4 million for the first time, some firms in the Green Belt are crying out for staff

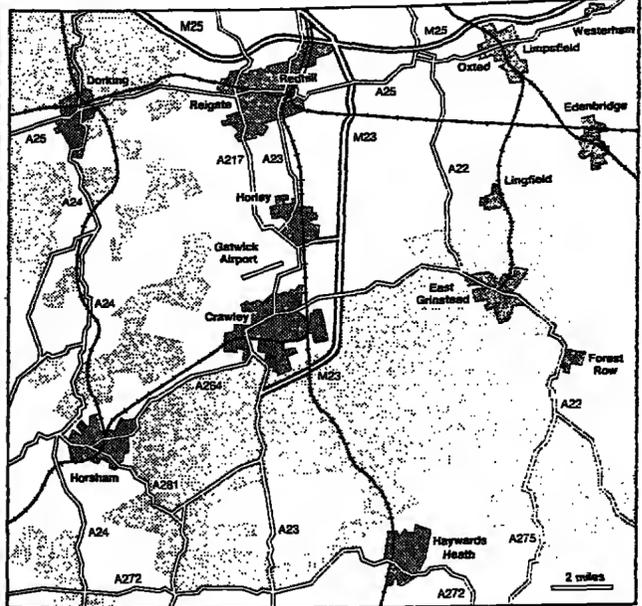
The green and pleasant boom town

Gatwick airport has brought jobs galore to the Sussex Downs. But, as William Greaves reports, expansion is creating its own problems



KLONDIKE CRAWLEY

The town of Crawley, looking east, Gatwick airport, to the left of the picture, is the expanding gold mine that has brought job hunters rushing here by the thousand - only to find there is nowhere to live. Thirty thousand jobs could be filled by 1990 if housing was available. But a three-bedroom semi costs £50,000 and almost half the planning applications are refused.



While the rest of Britain sadly digested last week's disclosure that unemployment had topped the 3.4 million mark for the first time, John Skipper could not resist a wry smile at the irony of it all. Mr Skipper is personnel and training manager of a Sussex firm which employs 1,200 people. "I could take on another 100 if I could find them," he said. And thereby hangs a tale. It is a tale guaranteed to reduce the dispirited job hunters of Liverpool, Tyneside, Scotland and South Wales to tears of impotent rage. Draw a circle of some dozen miles radius around Crawley and you identify a region with a unique problem in present day industrial Britain: its unemployment figure is too low. Mr Skipper's firm, Rediffusion Simulation, makes flight simulators for airline pilot training. It is one of scores of companies based in Crawley and spawned by nearby Gatwick Airport whose expansion plans are currently frustrated by a chronic lack of manpower. "Some of the vacancies are for software technicians of whom there is a national shortage", he admits, "but most are for the sort of craftsmen who would snap up an opportunity like this anywhere else in the country."

Cynics would claim that this is one more example of a redundant national workforce being prepared to shed their roots and go out in search of a pay packet. They would be wrong. Thousands have made the pilgrimage to Crawley, undergone agonies of interview and the mill of selection, only to be confronted by the cruel truth - there is nowhere for them to live. Despite Gatwick's status as the sixth busiest international airport in the world and Crawley's explosion into a new town of 1,000 people, both are surrounded by green and gracious countryside, sandwiched between the noble scenery of the North and South Downs. The battle lines are drawn. Mid Sussex, an area of determined militancy whose arguments hit to have usually revolved around the price of farmland and the cost of a monthly season ticket to the City, is bracing itself for a conflict which many believe will prove to be the environment's very own rmgageddon. The industrial lobby claims at least there is a fast and furious housebuilding programme. 30,000 new jobs will go

begging in the next five years; that the existence of Gatwick Airport is an incontrovertible fact, that commercial growth is inevitable and that it is far better to plan for it than to allow small towns and villages to be spoilt by piecemeal developments. A rigid adherence to Green Belt policies is, they say, at best insensitive and at worst immoral.

"If we give in now we might as well pack in the Green Belt"



Sir Peter Horder, MP

The environmentalists are unimpressed. It is, they reply, precisely this kind of shortsighted and pre-emptive commercial power play that the Green Belt was constituted to oppose; that if it gave way once the end result would be a swathe of concrete from Croydon to Brighton; that there is no reason to believe that Crawley's prosperity will be any

longer-lived than Liverpool's, Glasgow's or Newcastle's. The arguments have, of course, a familiar ring. Many of them have been trotted out wherever a new airport is planned, a new road projected or a new town positioned. On two counts, however, Gatwick and its environs are dangerously different. First, it is not a plan; it is already there. Second, the battle statistics are not comparative but superlative. The national unemployment figure is the worst ever. At 5 per cent, Crawley's unemployment level is the smallest of any town in Britain. The commercial growth potential of the Gatwick area is greater than anywhere else in the country.

There is another difference, too. Just for a change the environmentalists and the planners are on the same side. Between October 1984 and September last year 45 per cent of all residential planning applications in central Sussex (the area around Crawley and Horsham) were turned down, compared with an average of only 26 per cent nationwide. And although the average number of house completions in the area between 1978 and 1984 was 2,600 a year, there are plans to reduce this figure to 1,500 a year by 1991.

The pro-industry brigade, led into battle by a group calling itself Gatwick 2000, gaze upon these figures in fury and taunt their opponents with accusations of complacency and "I'm all right, Jack" attitudes. "Employment has got to be the biggest consideration of all", insists Mr Bill Ashpole, British

Caledonian airline manager and chairman of Gatwick 2000. "Anyone out of work has an abysmal environment, however many green fields there are around him. Firms here are capable of generating employment and they are here because Gatwick is here and their customers are here - it's no use telling them to move to a depressed area. We don't want to see a ribbon of houses all the way from Crawley to Horsham - that would be a mistake. All that's needed is to take one village and to build it up into a proper new community with all the necessary back-up facilities."

Bill Ashpole's view that Green Belt regulations were introduced to prevent opportunist development of agricultural land and to stop marring of the countryside, not as an artificial obstruction to commercial expansion, is shared by Mr Stuart Milner, principal of Crawley College of Technology and chairman of Crawley Industrial Group. "What we should be asking ourselves is where Crawley is going in the next 10 or 20 years, thinking about it and planning for it. It's no good chanting 'No encroachment' when encroachment is inevitable. So let's do it properly instead of in bits and pieces, and if Wimpey

or McAlpine want to build large housing developments let it be a condition that they put in the roads, the village hall and the rest of the infrastructure that a new community needs."

None of which impresses Sir Peter Horder, Conservative MP for Horsham. He agrees readily enough that a lot of people in other parts of the country would like to come and live in his constituency but insists: "If we give in now we might as well pack in the Green Belt policy altogether. A plan has been put forward to develop 100,000 acres at Southwater, a very lovely area near here. It is my belief that developments like this ought to be taking place in the docklands and out at Tilbury rather than flogging my part of the country all the time."

"This boom in the South-east may not last forever and if it subsides we could have devastated the area in order to create a ghost town. As it is, there are parts of Sussex 25 or 30 miles away which are crying out for development - with improved roads and communications people could live there and travel here to work."

In an area of fast rising house prices - they were up by 13 per cent last year and are expected to rise even more in 1986 - estate agents say that they would have no difficulty in selling twice the stock currently available. At first sight, therefore, it was strange to find one of them, Mr David Spreadborough, Crawley office manager of Turner, Rudge and Turner, siding with Sir Peter Horder and "the greens". "A very modest three-bedroom

semi on a housing estate is selling now for just under £50,000. If more were built they would probably be still beyond the range of a worker selling up in, say, South Shields; and who's to say that they wouldn't be snapped up by commuters currently paying even more than that for similar accommodation in Godalming or Leatherhead in the real stockbroker belt?"

"There are parts of Sussex crying out for development"

"A client of ours recently moved to Darlington. He sold a two-bedroom end-terrace house here for £43,000 and found a three-bedroom detached house there for £35,000. Imagine the shock of doing that move in the opposite direction."

Yet still the figures speak for themselves. On just one day in August, last year, the job centres of West Sussex had on their books 3,355 unfilled vacancies and there were another 3,122 on the same day in south Surrey - the sort of statistics which would be unthinkable in most other parts of the country.

Should parts of mid-Sussex's green and pleasant land be sacrificed to a national clamour for jobs or should the beauty surrounding such towns as Horsham, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead be protected for the fortunate people who already enjoy its company? Put another way: is there a Solomon in the house?

CRAWLEY IN COMPARISON

HOUSING	
Planning applications received (Oct 84-Sept 85):	626 dwellings
Planning applications approved in same period:	343 dwellings
Percentage approved:	55 per cent
Percentage approved in England:	74 per cent
Number of households in region (1961)	53,000
(1981)	109,000
(1986 projected)	132,000
Housing completions (average 1978-1984)	2,600 per year
(estimated average 1984-1991)	1,850 per year
(estimated average 1991-1996)	1,500 per year
MAJOR HOUSING PROJECTS:	
Maldenwater Estate, Crawley	3,500 houses
(Final planning application pending but likely to be approved)	
Southwater village, near Horsham	8,000 houses
(Proposed by local house agents, opposed by Sir Peter Horder MP, West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council and local residents)	
EMPLOYMENT	
Jobs filled in region (1971)	108,000 (Gatwick 9,000)
(1982)	121,900 (14,100)
(1986 - County Council low estimate)	125,400 (21,000)
(1986 - County Council high estimate)	145,000 (23,000)
(Crawley and District Industrial Association believes an additional 30,000 jobs could be filled by 1990 if sufficient housing was available.)	
HOUSE PRICES	
1976 : 3-bed semi on Crawley housing estate	£13,000
1986 : Same property	£50,000

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here



Paperback writer

Everybody has at least one book in them - or so we all like to believe. With advances sometimes over £1/2m and paperback sales booming, you can't claim lack of motivation. But you need the best advice. The Times, in consultation with a publisher (anonymous), presents a blueprint for a guaranteed blockbuster. Read all about it.

Turkish delight East of the Bosphorus **Be my Valentine Satin hearts and flowers**

Portfolio

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Marathon men selling the Games

In just five months Edinburgh hosts the Commonwealth Games but sponsors are still being sought

Long before the first athletes leave their starting blocks in the 13th Commonwealth Games, which open in Edinburgh on July 24, the organizers will have completed their own grueling private marathon.

The games will be the biggest the Commonwealth has held and the first to be staged without any financial lifeline from the Government. A minimum £10m has to be raised from sponsors but with five months to go, and after four years of planning, contracts worth only £5.5m have been signed. The consortium selling the event as a promotional package to industry and commerce remains "perfectly confident" that the funds are in the pipeline with a good chance of reaching the original target of £12m.

Maurice Griffiths, director of the consortium, said that sponsors often waited until the last moment before clinching a deal. "What we are offering is a worldwide television audience of 1,000 million. The outside broadcasting event of the year and the most intensive media coverage", he said. Even so there have been several nerve-racking moments: an event on which so much public attention is focused may be useful for promoting a company, but it can also be used to promote a cause. Protests against apartheid that led to the blacking of television coverage of the Dairy Crest Games in the city might have damaged the attraction to sponsors of linking their product to a sport.



across nearly half the United States", Griffiths said. Two tiers of advertising hoardings will stand unavoidably in the sweep of the television cameras at Meadowbank and the other sporting venues and advertising banners will line the marathon route. Luxurious hospitality suites costing up to £30,000 each overlook the Meadowbank track and most have been taken. Sports still seeking a sponsor are boxing, shooting and cycling plus two days each of swimming and bowling events.

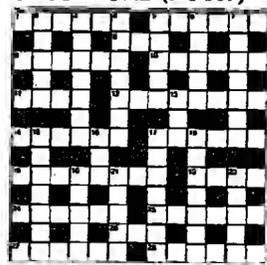
The games will bring a bonanza to the city of Edinburgh with an estimated two million visitors during the 10 days of competition. The Edinburgh International Festival with its tattoo and fringe follow a week later, maintaining the momentum. To date 50 of the 58 Commonwealth countries have accepted the invitation to take part and about 2,900 athletes will compete in the largest and most representative games ever. Alongside the athletics will be a Commonwealth cultural festival centred on the Princes Street Gardens. Each country taking part will contribute with its national music, dance or arts.

"It does mean a great deal to the city", said Kenneth Borthwick, a former Lord Provost and long-serving district councillor. "I was involved when Edinburgh last

Price Waterhouse In the article "Whisper campaign to stop shoplifting" (Spectrum, January 17) there was a reference to a report by accountants Price Waterhouse. The report referred to was not in fact one approved by Price Waterhouse and the conclusions derived from it in the article were neither reached nor endorsed by them.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 869)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hamlet jester (6)
 - 5 Extravagant (6)
 - 8 Helena (3)
 - 9 Very happy (6)
 - 10 Sudden (9)
 - 11 Curve (4)
 - 12 Rochester's lover (4,4)
 - 14 Swengali novel (6)
 - 17 Leap (6)
 - 19 Marine raider (8)
 - 22 Dollar (4)
 - 24 Put on (6)
 - 25 Spat (6)
 - 26 Commercial TV body (1,1,1)
 - 27 Bomb hole (6)
 - 28 Ethnic extermination (6)



- DOWN**
- 2 Sea air (5)
 - 3 Unbeliever (7)
 - 4 Spoilsport (7)
 - 5 Cell-attacking antibody (5)
 - 6 Fashion (5)
 - 7 Kilt pouch (7)
 - 13 Clairvoyance (1,1,1,1)
 - 15 Cock (7)
 - 16 Fur scarf (3)
 - 17 Temporary substitute (7)
 - 18 Hull joints (7)
 - 20 Power (5)
 - 21 Depth (5)
 - 23 Creed (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 868
ACROSS: 8 Pneumocystis 9 Nab 10 Overspill 11 Event 13 Embassy 16 Sudden 19 Clue 22 Overthrow 24 Liu 25 Cardiac arrest
DOWN: 1 Sponge 2 Pebble 3 Immoral 4 Sneeze 5 Aces 6 Solids 7 Aypay 12 Via 14 Bookworm 15 Sec 16 Scorch 17 Dreary 18 Strict 20 Nausea 21 Excess 23 Trim

Ronald Faux

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FRIDAY PAGE



Room with a view: Maggie Smith in her dressing room. 'What I like about Interpreters is that I'm not in anyone's shadow.'

The prime of Ms Smith

The self-serving anecdotes, pulling of faces and touching of knees expected by chat show hosts (or "television vivacities" as Gore Vidal calls them) and their audiences of sing-a-long couch parties is one reason why Maggie Smith avoids prime time television interviews.

"It's come to the point where you're a stand-up comic, because I don't think anybody can handle it unless they're screechingly funny. You know," she snaps her fingers, "one-liners and being camp with Terry Wogan."

"I can't do that. I'd die of embarrassment so I don't go near it. I hate all those kind of things". Dressed for a pre-show workout in a black leotard embroidered with a silver star, Maggie Smith looked as if she were about to join Steed in yet another revival of *The Avengers*. A poor performance (her opinion) earlier that week as Nadia in Ronald Harwood's *Interpreters* at Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, was blamed on the debilitating effects of antibiotics prescribed "for a heavy cold."

Next month a lavish film version of E.M. Forster's comedy of manners, *A Room With A View*, co-starring Maggie Smith as Charlotte Bartlett, receives its Cambridge premiere.

"One doesn't always fall in love with whom one intends - and when one does, there's no certainty that anybody else will approve", is one blurb writer's soapy exposition to the media of E.M. Forster's comedy of manners.

During filming on location in Italy, she says, it was "colder raining and impossible to shoot or 105 degrees with people fainting".

Smith found Charlotte Bartlett "a very irritating woman. I think she was based on an aunt of Forster's whom he didn't like". Chaparrone to Lucy (Helena Bonham-Carter), "Charlotte is one of those people

Maggie Smith, who stars in a new film version of *A Room with a View*, talks about her current stage role and why she hates chat shows

who is always driving others mad by saying 'I don't want to be any trouble'. They're forever trying to keep themselves out of the way and are thereby permanently in the way by rushing about. Still, she feels deep remorse in the end - at least that's what happens in the film - and saves the day".

Maggie Smith has been described as difficult because of her refusal to give interviews on set, confining them to the post-shooting period. "That probably goes back to *Brodie*, the only film to date in which I was involved in every frame and therefore your concentration has to be fairly bright. Quite frankly, Judi Dench and I sat around in Florence so long for *A Room With A View* we would have talked to anybody about anything. I mean if you're doing something very difficult you can't take time out to go to the caravan and talk about your divorce - which is all they want to know about. It seems to me fatuous".

Maggie Smith has won Oscars for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *California Suite*. In 1981 she returned to Britain after four years in Canada because "the boys (her two sons) were kind of muddled as to whether they should be playing ice hockey or cricket". She played parts at the Festival Theatre, Stratford, Ontario, which she feels she would not have been offered in Britain.

In 1975 she was divorced from Robert Stephens and, the same year, married script writer Beverly Cross, a sweetheart of younger days. They have a country retreat in West Sussex which she visits "on Saturday nights,

Sunday mornings... but the problem of where to live only occurred now with *Interpreters*. I am looking for a flat in London, a permanent base".

Interpreters marks the return of the well made comedy and well turned phrase. Nadia doesn't fancy three days of sexual athletics with Viktor (Edward Fox) - "as if it were an oil change" - only to be rejected again. Comprising the usual staples of humour, sex and foreigners, *Interpreters* affords an opportunity for Russian to be spoken on an English stage. Not all of it was written with delicate mind.

Maggie Smith's comic style of "wry asstringency" (Michael Billington's phrase) is allowed full reign in the role of nearly jaded innocence. "I was fascinated by the idea of *Interpreters* which I had never seen before. I mean, there are not many parts for women, as you may have observed, in this day and age."

"What I like about *Interpreters* is that I'm not in the shadow of other people, as, say in the classics, which have been performed by many others before you".

Were there more opportunities for middle aged actresses in film? "I think it's getting easier. I presume Joan Collins has hacked her way into a new world for us all. You're not totally written off when you get older as happened before. I think what she does is marvellous. It's sort of high camp... wonderful".

She once said that comedy acting - for which she is most renowned despite lauded performances of Lady Macbeth, Cleopatra and Desdemona - required an ability to see the world in a slightly distorted light, "always being aware of the absurd

other side to any serious or tragic event".

"By that I mean, in tragedy there are many areas that could be comic. If you're playing a serious part and you have a comic slant in your head, you can see what is funny and so you tread carefully to avoid that area. If I were just a straight actress I think it would be very odd because I wouldn't know where those dangerous areas were".

Did an absurdist's vision extend to reality? "Would that it did! One would have a much easier life. Life just always seems to be rather hard".

Did she do much research for a role? "Sure, if there's a lot to do. Films are different because you have a different text from the original on the whole. Plays, yes... I could still be playing Virginia Woolf. The possibilities are limitless except she made me desperately grim; trudging every night into the ooze, stones in your gut. Woolf was mad so I had to go mad and that was unerving".

Did she draw on personal experience for characterisation? "Experiences are filed away but you don't have a button that you can press and say: 'I'll think of my mother dying and that will make me feel sad. Everything that happens in life is of use to you as an actress - I suppose that sounds very Chekovian."

"I don't think anybody has a special knowledge of acting. I don't. I don't think it's a thing you can analyse. Instinct is the truest way - the way I do it. There's no handbook on acting, no DIY".

"I suppose one should appear on TV more often. TV creates a name much more quickly and that gets people into a theatre."

"Acting. It's a dumb thing to do but it's fascinating."

Victor Olliver

Protecting the baby from a mother with herpes

MEDICAL BRIEFING

One important concern for pregnant women who have a history of genital herpes, and for the doctors who attend them, is the possibility that the viral infection may be passed on to the baby as it is born. If the mother is suffering from an attack of herpes as she goes into labour, and the baby comes into contact with the virus through sores in the birth canal, the child could then become ill - sometimes seriously.

Current routine practice is to offer a woman in this position a Caesarean section and so minimize the risk to the child. Research from the United States suggests, however, that if the Caesarean section is done four or more hours after the mother's waters have broken it provides little protection for the infant. The Caesarean, with all its disadvantages, is therefore often needlessly performed.

At Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Dr Tim Moss, consultant in gynaecology, is investigating with his colleagues the use of the anti-herpes drug acyclovir as a way out of this dilemma.

Their studies have shown that when acyclovir is given to an expectant mother it crosses the placenta to the baby and does not do the baby any harm. They hope that, by giving the drug during labour to mothers whose waters have broken four or more hours earlier, they will be able to protect the baby safely from herpes infection and yet still allow a normal vaginal delivery to take place.

Indeed, in the small number of instances where this approach has been tried, healthy babies have been delivered.

Dr Moss stresses that acyclovir would only be used when it was too late to offer a Caesarean and that more studies are needed before it will be possible to say if the treatment is of value or not. But he added: "We hope that it will be a safe alternative to section in those women who go into labour unexpectedly."

Sick who cannot rest in peace

Most people like peace and quiet when they are ill. Hospital is the last place they will find it. Richard Soutar and Dr John Wilson from Ninewells hospital and medical school, Dundee, set out to discover just how noisy different wards are. Their findings are published in the current issue of the British Medical Journal.

They found that general medical wards and acute admission wards were far

from restful, although psychiatric wards were quite peaceful. To give some idea of how noisy these wards were, a whisper measures 20dB(A) - filtered decibels - light traffic comes in at 45dB(A) and a telephone rings at 60dB(A). Noise levels recommended for hospital wards in the United States are less than 45dB(A) during the day and 35dB(A) during the night.

Readings were taken between 11.30pm and 6.30am in 14 wards. In the half dozen general medical wards the noise level was above 50dB(A) for at least a quarter of the time and, on one ward, for 80 per cent of the night.

The average for the acute wards was more than three and a half hours a night and only the four psychiatric wards exposed patients to less than half an hour's disturbance. Because noise is measured on a sliding scale the general medical and acute wards are about 10 times noisier than the level recommended in the States.

Despite the racket, less than 10 per cent of patients believed their sleep, although staff admitted that it might wake as many as 40 per cent of patients.

However, a considerable amount of the clamour could easily be reduced. Trolleys and taps, say the authors, should be mended immediately they become faulty, noisy patients should be isolated if possible and doctors, particularly, should be encouraged to wear soft-soled shoes.

Hidden worries about the Pill

A bizarre anomaly exists in Japan over the prescribing of the contraceptive pill. According to the Bulletin of the Institute of Medical Ethics, the Pill is illegal for contraceptive purposes but doctors are allowed to prescribe it for strictly gynaecological problems - for example, a woman who has irregular periods.

Initially the Pill was made illegal because of the fears of side effects, although now it seems that doctors who run abortion clinics are particularly vociferous when there are moves to legalize and widen its prescribing.

What is particularly worrying is that the Pills which can be prescribed on medical grounds are the ones that contain high doses of oestrogen - the very formulations which carry most risk of blood clots and other side effects. Needless to say there are plenty of women, with

the connivance of their doctors, who do take the Pill for contraceptive purposes; sadly they have no option but to take the ones that may cause them problems.

How tea could be a killer

Take care if you like to drink scalding tea without milk. A report from the U.S. in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, claims that the high rate of cancer of the throat found in Uruguay, especially among women, may be due to their predilection for maté tea.

This is an infusion of *Ilex paraguensis*, and the hotter it is drunk the better. In other parts of the globe where there are high rates of cancer of the throat - including Iran and China - hot tea is also the order of the day.

Deafness: it's in the blood

A blood disorder could be the cause of a common form of deafness, researchers at Glasgow's Royal Infirmary and the Medical Research Council Institute of Hearing Research suggest. The discovery could mean it will eventually be possible to treat and prevent the problem.

Sensineural deafness affects 12 per cent of adults and occurs when cells in the inner ear (known as hair cells), which translate sound from a vibration into a nerve impulse, cease to function. Until now there have been few clues to its cause although evidence from animal work has suggested that poor blood supply to the hair cells may be to blame.

Now, in a study of 140 people, Dr George Browning and his colleagues have discovered that sensineural deafness is linked to the stiffness of red, oxygen-carrying blood cells. Normally red blood cells are quite deformable as they have to get through very tiny blood vessels. The Glasgow team has found that people with sensineural deafness tend to have red blood cells that are stiffer than usual. They think this could mean that the red cells, and hence oxygen, are not getting through the tiny blood vessels of the inner ear to keep the hair cells alive.

Red cell stiffness may be caused by something else, the researchers say in a recent edition of *The Lancet*. If they can discover the primary defect they may soon tackle this important cause of hearing problems.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

A new museum in America will be devoted entirely to the work of female artists

Women's art comes of age

Five minutes' walk from the White House, the echoing chambers of the grand old Masonic Temple are being ripped apart and redesigned in readiness for an influx of women. Art is art and has no sex but here, in this of all places, ignored and undervalued women's paintings from the Renaissance to today will be exhibited.

For the time being the newly-formed National Museum of Women in the Arts exists principally upon the tall walls of Mrs Wilhelmina Holladay's large home in Georgetown, the fashionable section of Washington. She says she is out a liberationist - "I've never really needed to be" - but she firmly believes that women artists have been ignored, downplayed and hampered throughout history.

Posthumously, justice is being done. She has donated her personal collection of more than 400 pieces to the museum - mostly paintings but also some sculpture, pottery, prints, drawings, books and photographs - and in early 1987 it will open its doors, probably the only museum in the world dedicated solely to the works of women.

Against isolating men's art and women's art", declared the sculptress Marisol, who happens at the moment to have pieces on display at several major museums. "It doesn't make any sense to me because it should all be together. Art is an idea."

Women's contributions to art throughout history were restricted primarily because women were kept out of art school. The Royal Academy of Arts in Paris had a quota system which admitted only four female students. Even those who got there were rarely allowed into the life class. For centuries, women were largely restricted to china painting or dainty water-colours. Many anonymously assisted their fathers, brothers, husbands or lovers, but never got the credit. A few, angry and frustrated, adopted men's names.

It still happens. Hilda Greene has been using the name H. Clinton Greene for the past 12 years, ever since a critic observed of her work: "Pretty good for a woman". Much of the art world contemplates to find it difficult to treat women as seriously as men. And that, principally, is why Mrs Holladay decided to campaign for a specialized museum.

She says there have been many good female painters from the Renaissance on, but there were not enough female writers and historians to record them. "The men wrote about what they knew best - they probably drank and socialized with the men artists. Women were left out of the popular writings. The in-depth writers did indeed



Wilhelmina Holladay in Washington

record the contributions of women, so we have been able to do research. We have found out that in almost every era women were painting very successfully."

Although artistic ability knows no sexual barrier, Mrs Holladay detects a tendency of women artists of the past to choose particular subject matters. "Because women were limited to their activities the subject matter tended to consist of portraits of children, flowers or things that they could assemble before them."

Even today, she thinks there may be examples of such a tendency. She pointed out a painting by Elizabeth Blackadder, Scotland's lead-

ing contemporary woman artist, entitled "Games Enjoyed by Children", depicting a dish of ice cream, a rattle and other children's items. "Maybe a man would not have picked this gentle subject, but I'm not at all sure he wouldn't. Art is art. It doesn't matter whether a man does it or a woman does it."

The purpose of the museum, she insisted, was not to separate men's and women's art, "but to heighten awareness and establish some of the great women artists throughout history, so they will be taken more seriously and included in great collections. No museum in the world will buy a work of art unless the artist is established

and well known. Did you know that women artists were left out of all American textbooks? Totally."

It was that discovery that set the ball rolling. She and her husband Wallace, a business tycoon, discovered the works of Clara Peeters, a 17th-century Flemish still-life painter, during a visit to the National Museum of Austria 20 years ago. "When I looked her up in the standard art text, H.W. Janson's *History of Art*, I found that not only was she not listed, but not even Mary Cassatt. But in the 16th edition, in 1985, women finally are included."

Artistic ability knows no sexual barrier

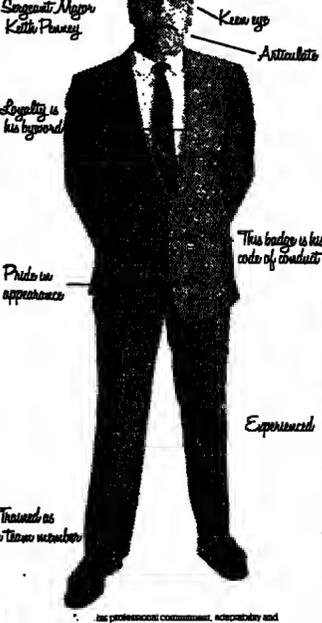
The Holladay collection today includes works by Cassatt, Helen Frankenthaler, Angelica Kauffman, Alice Neel, Georgia O'Keeffe, Elizabeth Siraoui and Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun. In about four years the museum has raised more than \$10 million of its \$30 million goal, acquired 20,000 members paying \$20 or more, and 229 founders who have contributed \$5,000 apiece. Corporations have given generously.

Already, demand for women's art has increased. "Paintings are going for more at auction, they are harder to collect," Mrs Holladay declared. "Dealers are acquiring stock because they think prices will go up when the museum opens. As we make these artists established and well known, their prices will go up. They're already going up. Aren't we fortunate that we bought when we did?"

Christopher Thomas

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THE TIMES DIARY

Busman's holiday

Edward Heath and the other rebels outraged by the idea of selling BL to the Americans...

Old story

Talking of British Leyland, a reader sends me a copy of the Daily Mirror of January 29 1936...

Bad form

It's official: under a Tory government it doesn't pay to live too long. A recently bereaved friend has just been sent a form...

Animal instinct

Ian Paisley's lack of German has landed Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King with an unfortunate new image...

Hanging judge

Judge James Fox Andrews, hearing a High Court case against the architects of Liverpool's Catholic Cathedral...

BARRY FANTONI



'It will suit old Fred: he's already got shares in Distillers'

Blown up

Students of the Widdicombe Report and the impending legislation restricting political statements by local authorities...

Noticed a spot of brotherly love between Leon Brittan and the new Scottish Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind?

Old story

Under the headline "Pensions in Gibraltar for Spain's old," Wednesday's Daily Telegraph said of the pensioners...

PHS

Water bill that hits us all

by Des Wilson

The government's proposal to sell off Britain's water industry is not only the biggest privatisation exercise so far...

Ninety-nine per cent of British households (the highest proportion in the world) have mains water...

Last February the Prime Minister told the Commons that "water authorities are natural monopolies for many of their functions..."

Apart from the likely outcry when the public fully appreciates the loss of accountability...

The North-West Water Authority has admitted to "a legacy of pollution, dereliction, and consistent under-spending over many years..."

Fifteen per cent of the nation's sewage system is more than 100 years old; each year there are 500 sewer collapses.

There is also colossal waste; a third of the clean water entering the system never reaches the taps because of leakage on the way.

The 10 water authorities created in 1973 are themselves divided. Recently the North-West Authority spelt out what is distinctive about the industry:

- It has a natural monopoly of the services provided.
Because a reliable supply of clean water is vital to health and life, the service must never fail.
The industry has important regulatory functions and environmental responsibilities...

Issues of public accountability and finance arise. Accountability was reduced by the government's 1983 Water Act...

the water boards, which became appointed rather than elected, scrapped the automatic rights of press and public to attend their meetings and abolished the National Water Council...

Since then all nine English water authorities have refused to meet in public, and have been widely criticized as a result. It seems extraordinary that matters concerning the supply and quality of this basic commodity should be considered in secret.

Given that we must have water, it follows that we have no option - but to pay the price demanded for it. Thus water rates are a form of taxation, now totalling more than £2,000 million a year...

The suggestion that a director-general of water services will maintain some public control of the pricing policy of these private companies is hardly credible.

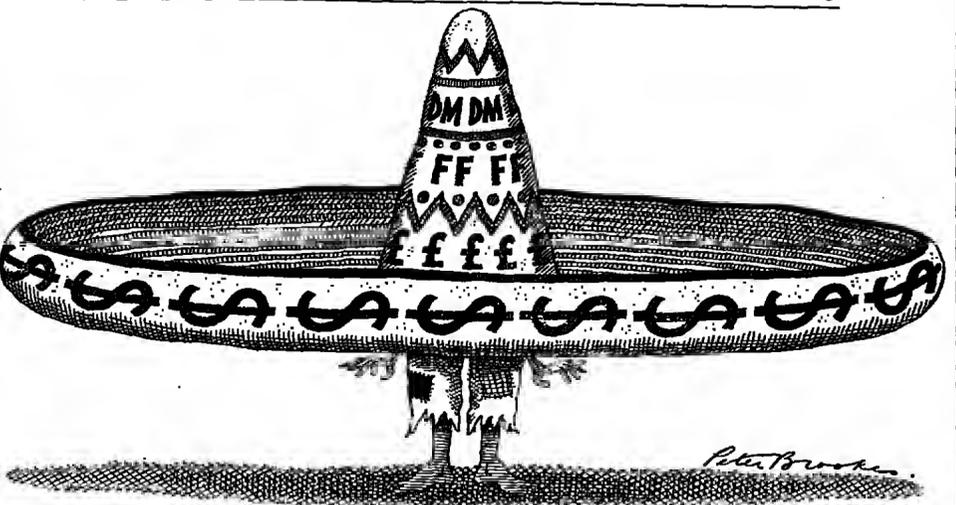
once established, they will be able to insist on any price by threatening ill effects on supply or infrastructure improvements.

There is too much at stake in terms of public health for such matters to be subject to short-term market considerations.

One can have an open mind on the case for privatization generally and still believe there is no argument for this one.

The author is chairman of Friends of the Earth.

John Carlin on the new threat to world financial stability



Mexico City One Monday recently tens of thousands of workers were given the day off to attend a speech by the governor of a state adjoining Mexico City...

Mexico's debt message: relax or we renege

economic growth, money is becoming desperately short. The PRI leadership has never sounded so nervous...

Both Mexico and the big international banks, to which it owes nearly \$100 billion, feared for their survival in 1982...

But the price of oil is now sliding. At the last count, Mexico's oil income this year was expected to be \$5 billion less than when de la Madrid took power...

Loyalty to the party is rewarded in the same way that lack of it - for example, failing to appear at pro-government rallies - can be punished by the loss of a day's wages.

Will costs be awarded to legal aid?

The battle between the Bar and the government over increased pay for legal aid work comes to a head this week...

Last month, for example, the government announced a top-level scrutiny into the workings of the legal aid scheme...

There have been other signs of strains on the legal aid budget. This year, the capital limits below which people qualify for legal aid were not increased...

In theory, everyone can obtain criminal legal aid awarded on an "interests of justice" test.

On top of this increase in volume, the actual costs of individual cases have grown. A divorce case in the county court which cost roughly £600 in 1983/84 is projected at £900 in the coming year.

On the civil side, some 70 per cent of the population qualify.

Criminal legal aid accounts for the lion's share of the bill.

On the criminal side, there has been better productivity in the criminal justice system with a big rise in the work of the courts.

At a time when the government is committed to spending an extra £20 million for the new duty-solicitor scheme for free legal advice in police stations...

There is a real danger, at present, that if the lawyers have any measure of success in their current pay claim, the standards of the legal aid service may be secured, but fewer people will enjoy its benefits.

There are strong arguments, however, not only for preserving the system but for expanding it

and filling in its gaps. Last year the legal aid watchdog body, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee, called for a number of reforms to remove injustices in the scheme...

The committee wanted consideration to be given to individuals fighting large public institutions.

At a time when the government is committed to spending an extra £20 million for the new duty-solicitor scheme for free legal advice in police stations...

There is a real danger, at present, that if the lawyers have any measure of success in their current pay claim, the standards of the legal aid service may be secured, but fewer people will enjoy its benefits.

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There are strong arguments, however, not only for preserving the system but for expanding it

raising the one peso (a sixth of a penny) fare on the Mexico City underground.

Seeing that under present conditions there will soon be no money left to pay for PRI populism, the government yesterday said the previously unspendable - that interest cannot be paid. Default is on the cards.

The prospect horrifies the bankers, who fear a snowball effect that could lead to the disintegration of the world financial system.

Showing an unprecedented and growing commonness of purpose, Latin American governments are sending a clear message to the governments and banks of the US, Britain and other developed nations: "Don't be so greedy or you will end up with nothing."

According to diplomats in Mexico City, the banks are being either unwilling or too slow to react. Meanwhile the clamour among the people here in Mexico, in particular, is growing.

In an interview this week, one of the Mexican government's chief debt negotiators told me that "political negotiations" with the developed nations must begin immediately. "Time," he said, "is rapidly running out."

David Watt

Whitehall pact in need of repair

It turns out that when Michael Heseltine claimed the Westland affair was a major constitutional issue he was right for the wrong reasons.

It involves a clash between three competing interests: ministers, the bureaucracy and Parliament. In pure constitutional theory such a clash is impossible.

This government, like its four or five predecessors, has abandoned the full theory of ministerial responsibility. Ministers do not feel obliged to take the blame for all the mistakes of their ministry.

This attitude breaks the compact on which civil service silence and anonymity rest. As a minister I take responsibility but expect your silence, as civil servant, you keep your mouth shut but get shielded from public criticism.

Of these critics, the most persistent and prominent are the press, a fact which partly accounts for the enormous increase in leaks from Whitehall to Fleet Street.

disobliging to governments does not come from the Tisdales and Pontings but by way of discreet "guidance" from senior Civil Service colleagues...

The growing importance of the Commons' specialist select committees is the result of a loosening of the grip of the party machines on British politics.

The Commons Defence Committee can insist on sending for any "persons and papers" it thinks fit because its Conservative majority is prepared to defy the government whips.

There is not much point in arguing whether these trends, which have contributed vastly to the openness of our political and administrative processes, are better on balance than the closed circle of the prewar system.

For better or worse, we live with professional, full-time politicians who live and die by the media and cannot afford to accept formal responsibility for more mistakes than they have to.

The question is rather how we maintain or reacquire (since we seem to have lost them) the minimum requirements of good administration: considered, practicable policies executed efficiently by people who believe in them for people persuaded to give them a try.

Most people agree that part of the answer lies in what we do with the electoral system and with the procedures of Parliament. But we tend to forget the relationship between the other sides of the government triangle.

moreover... Miles Kington

Ye Roses Warre: Yorks all out

It isn't something we boast about a lot, but this column has been computerized for several years.

"Naff off, you Normans!" cried the Sun. "Further Rounds of Anglo-Norman Talks Expected Soon," said the Daily Telegraph.

"Why Thanes make the best lovers," offered the Daily Star. "Why there will be no invasion this year," tried the Daily Express.

"Ethelred the Unready? Blimey, how wrong can you be! Court beauty reveals sexy Saxon goings-on" is the Mirror's contribution to foreign news.

"Get Stuffed, Senores!" Guardian: "Very real fear of differentials being eroded in Plymouth shipyards, say guild leaders"; Daily Star: "The saucy secrets of those sexy Senores!"; The Times: "Government Denies Rumours of a Catholic Mole in the Cabinet."

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Mirror: "Exclusive: Sir Francis Drake on My Way to Playing Better Bowls"; Express: "Why the Queen put her career before a family life - a courtier reveals all"; Financial Times: "Double exchange rate at all-time low"; Daily Peasant: "Colonialist, imperialist armada set to meet imperialist, colonialist English fleet."

We dropped in briefly at 1745 to see what the English papers made of Bonnie Prince Charlie and his clansmen, but it seems that invasion coverage does not change much, with headlines like "The Prince who dresses in women's clothes"; "Why lairds make the best lovers"; "German George's gorgeous girls" and "Clear off, you clansmen!"

Admittedly, the Financial Times had a bit of a scoop with "The money in national anthems: Profile of Dr Thomas Arne"; but we decided to shoot on to 1777 and the setting up of the new American Republic.

Daily Labourer: "Freedom fighters win self-determination, cast off British yoke"; Sun: "America? You're welcome, Yankees"; Guardian: "A Guarded Welcome to the New Democracy Across the Atlantic. While at the Same Time Very Real Fears of the Emergence of a New Superpower to Upset Balance of the Developed World. Inside: Mrs George Washington Gives Woman's View of the Revolution."

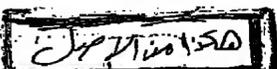
Mirror: "Biggest prizes ever! Win a dollar and be rich for life!"; Daily Star: "Sex secrets of those Yankee Doodle Dandies!"; News of the World: "Playboy Bill Bedford in society gay drugs scandal shock horror probe."

Financial Times: "New constitution will not harm lucrative slave trade, promise US leaders"; Daily Mail: "Mistress Whitehouse condemns Gibbon's history of Rome, lascivious and lustful, she says."

Curiously, the computer makes no mention of The Times for this vital period. After sharp questioning, it revealed that Times temporarily off streets due to labour dispute over introduction of bot metal.

Frances Gibb

Legal affairs correspondent





1 Pennington Street, London E1. Telephone 01 481 4100

THE NUCLEAR MIST

"There were no implications for the public", British Nuclear Fuels said on Wednesday. There were. There are implications follow, regardless of precise microcurie readings, regardless of initial concentrations of plutonium nitrate, regardless of whether radiation escaped from the processing line and entered the atmosphere of the chemical separation building at Sellafield.

Any nuclear accident, however trivial, produces a frisson of fear and no amount of "put-tutting" by BNFL spokesmen will change that. It is an inescapable fact that the processing of spent fuel, like most processes featuring plutonium, take place in a context of what is at best "public uncertainty and at worst cold fear. Each incident at Sellafield, and there have been too many, implicates the very activity of reprocessing in which BNFL has invested both resource and that most precious of commodities, the confidence of the public in nuclear energy.

It may be that each of the successive accidents and incidents at Sellafield are unrelated. They do have a cumulative effect, for it is a natural suspicion that managerial failure is a part cause of each. This, the latest, inevitably deepens public anxiety. It cannot be buried as easily as contaminated operatives' work-clothes.

Accidents will happen in the best-ordered industry. Environmentalists, however

sincere, have misled many by seizing on every event in the nuclear industry as a sign of the apocalypse. Accidents, moreover, as shown recently in the United States at the Kerr-McGee plant in Gore, Oklahoma, tend to be associated with irregular episodes of maintenance rather than the production process. A single accident involving (BNFL indicates) some physical breakdown in an aerosol jet or a pump implies nothing beyond itself, nor necessarily does a chapter of accidents in different locations in the large manufacturing and processing area that Sellafield encompasses.

But a perception has unavoidably grown up that Sellafield is accident-prone and that somewhere in the causal chain there has been failure of supervision, the sort of failure which *ex post facto* inquiry by the Health and Safety Commission and other regulatory bodies has seemed powerless to prevent. That said, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate must now provide the fullest possible demonstration, within the bounds of commercial confidentiality, that Sellafield is well governed. Where safety rules have been infringed, there must be fines. And where fines fail (BNFL has paid out in the courts before) central intervention may be required.

A single incident of as yet unknown seriousness is a flimsy basis for review of

nuclear industrial strategy. Yet behind the small-scale inspectorate investigation wider questions intrude. The processing of spent fuel is the most hazardous process in the civil nuclear programme. It is one in which Britain has specialized and it is one whose economics look increasingly shaky. An incident such as this has to have an impact on the calculations concerning the proposed reprocessing plant at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's Dounreay site.

They concern the safety of the plant, and the cost of further safety work (to the extent that safety is a function of investment). They also concern the safety of the public, meaning the plant's neighbours. There may be some perfectly plausible reason for the apparent pattern in leukaemia in children in Caithness; the pattern may be a statistical apparition; even if it exists there may be some non-nuclear explanation. The scare about radioactive iodine in the water supply of Surrey may be just that, a scare. But these are not phenomena to be brushed under the carpet. Their investigation is urgent. The fact is that there is a vast work of public education about the incidence and probable causes of cancer. It is work in which neither the UKAEA nor the Ministry of Defence nor BNFL can afford to adopt a dismissive posture.

NO BOLT HOLE FOR BABY DOC

It is said now to be a question not so much of whether "Baby Doc" Jean-Claude Duvalier will abdicate the presidential throne of Haiti which his family has sat on for the last 29 years, as when. Now for the bad news - he has nowhere else to go.

Reports that Duvalier has recently approached Argentina, Italy, Greece, Switzerland and Spain with requests for asylum, suggest that even he can now read the writing on the palace wall - his people have had enough of him and want him to go. The refusals of these countries to accept him is understandable, given the reputation of the Duvalier dynasty, father ("Papa Doc") and son, for cruelty, oppression and misrule. But are they doing a service to his people?

The United States, the one country with the power and influence - and now possibly the will - to unseat him, has long cherished the hope that the Duvaliers might be persuaded to reform. Last week's announcement by the State Department that it was suspending about half of the latest \$50m aid allocation (the other half is given in the form of food for Haiti's poor) reflected this cautious American attitude of stern dis-

approval, tempered by hope that it might all change.

The message of the last week must surely be that it is now too late for that - that reforms enacted by the president at this stage will not be enough to appease his opposition. The fear that the Duvaliers and their dreadful militia - the Tontons Macoutes, once inspired in Haiti's six million population has been replaced by anger - which is a much more difficult reaction for dictators to deal with.

Events so far have suggested however that Duvalier could not easily be toppled as long as he retains control of the army and the police - his main instruments of power. Even if he could, there are grave doubts about whether Haiti could cope with the vacuum he would leave. There is no democratic infrastructure, no politically educated middle class to seize the reins of power. The great danger must be that anarchy would prevail, with no clear way out of it.

One characteristic of the last week or two has been the pro-American mood of the people. Agitators have fervently unfurled the Stars and Stripes as a desperate symbol

of the liberty they crave. They seek democracy and the inference one draws is that they would like the United States to restore it to them. But would intervention by Washington be wise?

There is too the question of who would follow in "Baby Doc's" shoes. The only advantage which the Duvaliers have afforded Washington has been a kind of stability in this particular corner of its backyard - and a regime which has allowed little scope for Communism to flourish. Might the devil one knows be succeeded by the devil one doesn't?

These are difficult questions for the State Department to answer as it ponders the crisis in Haiti. All the indications are that Haiti will need American help in more ways than one in a post-Duvalier age. But perhaps it should receive it now. Perhaps the best service that Washington could perform for Haitians would be to find a haven for its president, however unpopular such a move would be. That way, it might be able to ensure a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy - under the civil as opposed to military guidance of the United States.

TRADING WITH MOSCOW

In the months since the Geneva summit, hopes have been high that the warm words around the fireside would be translated into improvements in the day-to-day relations between East and West. Some of the grander hopes have already been dashed. Even in the conditions of better understanding between the superpowers signs of progress were likely to be long in coming and less than dramatic when they arrived. So the announcement that Britain and the Soviet Union have initialled a new long-term trade accord is welcome news.

Anglo-Soviet trade is currently conducted under arrangements made more than 10 years ago, and formalized in the 1975 agreement signed by Harold Wilson and the then Soviet Prime Minister, Alexei Kosygin. Since then, politics and a general atmosphere of ill-feeling have stifled many a good intention and blocked many an opportunity. This week's accord offers the possibility of a new start.

Neither side bears exclusive blame. The Soviet Union is a very formal trading partner. Its centrally planned economy makes for cumbersome and inflexible negotiating procedures. Calculating the likely time needed for closing a deal is tantamount to divination. And maintaining a team in the Soviet Union for the often lengthy negotiations is

expensive, even for larger British concerns, and does not always yield results.

These are problems any Western country faces in its dealings with the Soviet Union. But they are exacerbated where Britain is concerned by what Moscow perceives as Britain's special relationship with the United States. Even when the British government has dissociated itself from US policies - as it did over exports of equipment for the Siberian gas pipeline - the lack of trust has persisted and it has yet to be overcome, despite the recent improvement in relations between Moscow and Washington.

But there have been faults on the British side, too. British firms, unused to the slow pace at which dealings with the Eastern bloc proceed, have run out of patience when they were almost within sight of their goal. They have failed to invest the money and the skills needed to obtain a commercial foothold in Moscow. And their attention has been deflected from the size and potential of the Soviet market by short-term profit considerations.

The British government's commitment to improved trade with the Eastern bloc has been ambivalent. It has not always given British companies, especially the smaller companies, the sort of encouragement they might have expected. And Moscow

has been quick to understand that where West Germany and France have shown themselves only too willing to disregard political difficulties in return for trade advantages, the same has not always been true of Britain.

The accord initialled yesterday offers the prospect of a new framework for commercial dealings between the two countries. That in turn could facilitate a real growth in trade. The timing of the accord, as the Soviet Union finalizes its next five-year economic plan, could not have been bettered. And Moscow has shown a genuine desire to see a significant growth in bilateral trade with Britain - not just in Soviet exports.

The present leadership in Moscow has given priority to the development of a whole range of sectors in which Britain has appropriate, and internationally respected, experience: the petrochemical industry; gas and oil prospecting; agriculture; and the food industry. And British firms are already competing for several major construction projects in the Soviet Union.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry the new accord should help British companies win orders worth billions of pounds and increase bilateral trade by more than 40 per cent over the five-year period. But "help" is the operative word. It will be up to British companies to do the rest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helicopters for Armed Forces

From Mr. N.J.C. Drummond
Sir, One of your letters (February 3) mentioned that the Westland affair has shed light on the fact that there is a shortage of helicopters in the Armed Forces. This is a view very much shared originally in the Army, where often the only alternative to helicopter operations are those done on foot.

What the Westland affair has not made known is the future importance that helicopters are expected to play in military roles. The helicopter has transcended its already ubiquitous tasks such as troop transport, casualty evacuation, reconnaissance, liaison and artillery observation, to become a complete weapon system in its own right.

The British Army already uses the Westland Lynx helicopter in service to act as an attack helicopter - a role for which it was not designed. Lynx helicopters armed with Tow anti-tank missiles are seen as being key weapons against massive armoured thrusts in a future European conflict. There is an increased requirement for this type of helicopter within the British Army. The Lynx replacement is already being considered.

Neither have the views of the Armed Forces been made clear, for they are users who know best what tools they need for the job. When defence budgeting demands cost-effectiveness, the Armed Forces simply demand the best available equipment for the price. They accept that this

cannot always be British. Too often the Armed Forces have had to contend with second-rate equipment.

I served in Belize last year, where we relied on RAF Puma helicopters to perform every task. This helicopter needs replacement soon. Many of us who have seen the Sikorsky S-60 Black Hawk helicopter believe it to be the best helicopter replacement for the Puma. (The alternative, the Westland WG-30 was considered widely to be inferior).

The US-made Hughes AH-64 Apache attack helicopter is considered to be the most combat-capable of its type. The Apache, like the Black Hawk, is already in service. Whether Europe can develop better machines for the price of these two is debatable, but what Europe cannot do is offer Britain's Armed Forces suitable future machines within an acceptable timescale.

Mr. Heseline, the former so-called champion of the Armed Forces, should have perhaps considered such things before he laid his job on the line. In supporting the European consortium he has let down the Armed Forces, who are not allowed to voice what they really think in public.

Yours faithfully,
N.J.C. DRUMMOND,
Trinity Drummond,
Cambridge,
February 3.

Work practices in Fleet Street

From Mr Kenneth G. Braidwood
Sir, Congratulations that a national newspaper is at last able to publish an article dealing in detail with overmanning in Fleet Street (Bernard Levin, *The Times*, February 3, 1986: "Fleet Street: now the truth can be told").

Mr Levin's examples illustrate well the lunacy of the labour practices and the denial of modern technology which threatens ruin for the national newspaper industry. Costs have now escalated to the point where they can only be borne, and just, by the mass circulation newspapers. Newspapers with more modest circulations face certain closure without heavy subsidies. Already there have been closures, with the loss of many jobs. More are inevitable without an end to the absurd practices of the print unions' labour cartel.

This is no sudden crisis. Some 20 years ago I was asked by the proprietors and the unions of the Fleet Street industry, along with the then managing director of the Economist Intelligence Unit and under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Devlin to lead a team which made a factual study of the national newspaper industry as a basis for the changes which could lead to increased efficiency within the industry and which were seen as vital then.

The report took months to prepare. It was very detailed. Proprietors, management and unions accepted its accuracy. The Prime Minister of the day, Mr Harold Wilson, commended the report and he welcomed the changes it implied.

The changes were then talked about and talked and talked about. Few changes resulted in practice. The unions forbade any real concessions to reason and efficiency; where they did concede it was always too little and too late. Instead their demands became more rapacious and unreasonable and the barriers against new technology ever stronger.

In essence industrial anarchy began to prevail. Month after month millions of copies began to be lost and prolonged closures were forced on *The Times* and *Financial Times*. There was general despair about the future of the Fleet Street industry.

Mr Murdoch and his workforce at Wapping have wrought an astonishing change in this scene and we should all be profoundly grateful, for their fight with the print unions is not only about the efficiency, costs and profits within the Fleet Street industry; it is equally about a freedom vital for a free society: the freedom to publish.

As Lord Devlin wrote in his preface to that factual report 20 years ago "The report does not raise problems for the press alone to solve. It raises problems for a free democracy."

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BRAIDWOOD,
15 Pembroke Court,
Edwards Square,
Kensington, W8,
February 4.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 7 1896

The pages of *The Times* in the second half of the 19th century constantly carried reports of military engagements and skirmishes in far-off places as Britain consolidated and polished her empire. They began by Colonel John Peile in such a one.

THE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE SANA KACHINS

(From our Special Correspondent)
Mylitkyia, Dec. 14.
In December, 1892, while operations were being conducted against the Sana or Kamlaio Kachins on the north-east frontier of Burma, the Sana Kachins from the north took the opportunity of raiding Mylitykia, setting fire to the public buildings, killing the Subadar Major and some few sergeants of the Mylitykia battalion of military police, and then scuttling back as fast as they could to their own hills, leaving some four or five of their dead at Mylitykia. As the Sana Kachins have been persistent in their raids on British territory, and have committed atrocities and many other offences during the past three years, it has been determined to punish them, and with this in view it was ordered that two columns of military police, one furnished by the Mylitykia battalion and the other by the Mogaung battalion, should proceed by different routes to Panlong, the supposed capital of the Sana Tract, meet there, demand the fines ordered by Government, and if necessary, exact the fines and the submission of the various villages by force of arms. Both the battalions of military police named above are composed of Gorkhas, so the punitive force will consist entirely of those little men, and the Mylitykia column will have with it two small mountain guns, worked by the Gorkhas, who have been drilled for the purpose. The officer took off to command the operation in Major Carey, of the 1st Bombay Cavalry, and now one of the commandants of a police battalion. A long line of mules accompanies each column as it has been found necessary to take rations to last for three weeks. The force, after combining at Panlong, will stockade itself there, send back the mules for more rations, and then despatch parties to visit all the villages and exact submission. These parties will, as far as possible, move without mules, as it is in a long train of transport animals that weakness in fighting jungle savages lies. To the south-west of us 150 military police under Captain Hodges, with Mr. Bate as Political Officer, and Lieutenant Carey as Intelligence Officer, are to work the Jade Mines Tract. This force is called the Jade Mines Escort. It would hardly be available to help the Sana column, as it has itself to form two posts, one at a place called Nanyaseik, where licenses are just being issued for the ruby mines which have lately been discovered there, and the other as the side mines, to control the disorderly rabble that assembles there during the cold season. There is a very large trade carried on in jade between the Kachin owners of the mines and Chinese speculators. Jade is a green stone which is found in large blocks or slabs in the mines and in the bed of the Uyr river. The Chinese jade licence-holder pays the Kachins for the mines and lets them out in blocks. The speculators then dig in their blocks and the jade is taken out in masses and carried by boat to Nanyaseik, and thence by foot to Kamaing, Mogaung, and Bhamo. I have seen as many as 20 Shan Chinese coolies struggling along with a huge block of jade, which was attached to long poles by ropes and carried shoulder high. The jade is then taken to one of the agents of the licensee, who values it, say, at Rs.5,000. If the speculator is prepared to pay this sum, he takes the jade away with him to China, where after being cut, and the Chinese are, I believe, the only people who know how to cut jade - it may be found to yield more than 100 per cent, or, perhaps, to be worth nothing at all.

Leyland sale

From the Chairman of the National House-Building Council
Sir, Two years ago the "Think British" campaign asked all our MPs if they owned a British car. Only just over 200 replied saying that they did so. One hopes that in any future debate on the future of Austin Rover the other 400 will acknowledge the contribution which they have themselves made to Britain's industrial decline.

We ourselves switched our fleet of 300 cars to Austin Rover in 1981 in the belief that if others did so the industry might recover. Although there were teething troubles we have had no cause to regret our decision because the quality of the British product has improved. Will MPs now set an example? Or are they too late?

Yours faithfully,
A.W. TAIT, Chairman,
National House-Building Council,
58 Portland Place, W1,
February 5.

ment-owned truck maker - as we all know to our cost!

The industry since 1980 has gone through a difficult and traumatic business cycle and during that period all manufacturers of commercial vehicles have suffered severe marketing problems. Over this period we have had to compete with many forms of subsidised competition. Competing with a State-owned company is, I feel, one of the worst, especially as the taxpayer at the end of the day has to foot the bill.

Whilst ERF is not large in world terms in the automotive industry, we do currently hold nearly 10 per cent of the UK heavy duty truck market and employ nearly 1,000 people within the group, plus probably another 50,000 indirectly through our suppliers throughout this country.

Whatever the outcome, I hope that the new consortium will continue to employ British labour and use British components, as much as we do!

Yours faithfully,
E.P. FODEN, Chairman,
ERF (Holdings) plc,
Sun Works,
Sandbach,
Cheshire,
February 5.

Care of the elderly

From Dr W. B. Wright and Dr J. S. Meyrick
Sir, Your nautical reporting of the death rate among holiday and social admissions at the Whittington Hospital (January 27) does a disservice to the elderly and to those who care for them, both in the community and in hospitals. That such figures may not be representative is demonstrated by our experience in the geriatric ward at this hospital. Admissions are selective only in that there are no facilities for major trauma or acute surgery, although we regularly provide convalescence and rehabilitation after such events.

In the five-year period 1981-85 the 18-bed ward accepted 518 patients, of whom 99 died (19 per cent), 134 were for family relief and special reasons, of whom seven died (5 per cent); 384 were for illness, of whom 92 died (24 per cent).

Many disabled elderly people can only be cared for in the community as a result of such admissions to give respite to those who care for them, and it must be remembered that they are already too frail and dependent to be transferred for such "holidays" anywhere except to hospital. Arousing unjustified fears of this nature does nothing to promote their welfare.

Yours faithfully,
W. B. WRIGHT,
J. S. MEYRICK,
Moore Cottage Hospital,
Bourton-on-the-Water,
Gloucestershire,
January 30.

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Moore Cottage Hospital,
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Gloucestershire,
January 30.

Crown immunity

From the Director General of the Health and Safety Executive
Sir, In *The Times* of January 28 Mr Nigel Harris complains that a health service administrator is immune from prosecution in the event of his being found negligent in some aspect of management that has contributed to death or injury of a patient, whereas a doctor is not.

He is mistaken. Crown immunity applies to the Crown and not to individuals, and an administrator is in no special position in this respect. It might indeed be a difficult matter to prove an offence under the Health and Safety at Work Act against an administrator, but he is certainly open to prosecution in the circumstances envisaged by Mr. Harris.

The Health and Safety Executive would not, however, prosecute an individual in substitution for the Crown. There would have to be clear personal responsibility. Nor would we attempt a prosecution in matters which are more specifically dealt with under other legislation, or by other inspecting authorities - for example, in a case affecting food hygiene.

Yours faithfully,
J.D. RIMINGTON,
Director General,
Health and Safety Executive,
Regina House,
259 Old Marylebone Road,
NW1,
February 4.

Self-help

From Sir Denis Wright
Sir, With piracy of books, films, etc. again in the news I wonder whether any of your readers can bear my invidious experience?

My hook, *The English Amongst the Persians*, published by Heinemann in 1977, has, since the Islamic Revolution in Iran, been translated and published in Tehran by four different translators and four different publishers (the last as recently as last year) without a by your leave!

Yours truly,
DENIS WRIGHT
(Ambassador to Iran, 1963-71),
Duck Bottom,
Flint Street,
Haddenham,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.

Against all odds

From Mr. G.S.W. Marshall
Sir, Your "On this day" column (February 4) gives an account of the Rugby International at Cardiff on February 4, 1935, when Wales beat Scotland 10-6.

No wonder Scotland lost because, according to the teams published at the end of your report, Scotland were playing with only 10 men, being deficient in one three-quarter, two half-backs and two forwards.

I was abroad at the time and never realised what a terrible time my young brother must have had at full back.

Yours faithfully,
G.S.W. MARSHALL,
Fairlaw,
Sway Road,
Brockenhurst,
Hampshire.

Shackle in Nepal

From Mrs J. Merz
Sir, While no one would condone the harassment, humiliation and persecution which David Alton, in his article, "Speak up for these Christians" (February 1), alleges is meted out to the Christian minority in Nepal, it should be remembered that the present situation would never arise if the Nepalese were allowed to pursue, in peace, the Hinduism which is an important part of their indigenous culture.

Nepal's government have made it quite clear that they do not want the interference of Christian evangelists in their country. If their wishes were respected, the "zone of peace" might become a reality and the Christian minority allowed to pursue their religion in peace.

Of course the Nepalese badly need help with health care, education, agriculture and industry but Christians seem unable to offer this much-needed aid without, at the same time, trying to influence the Nepalese away from the traditional beliefs which suit their lifestyle and culture.

Surely the Human Rights article guaranteeing freedom of religious belief, if interpreted in its widest sense, means also the right to practise one's religion without undue interference from unwanted evangelists.

Yours faithfully,
JOHANNA D. MERZ,
14 Whitefield Close,
Putney, SW15,
February 3.

Seen along the line

From Mr. H.T. Jones
Sir, Professor Dunstan (February 1) and others who enjoy the view from a railway carriage window may be interested to know that three branches of the Railway Development Society have already published... *By Rail guide* books covering East Anglia, Lincolnshire and the Midlands respectively, and I am currently engaged on editing *Kent & East Sussex by Rail* for the London and Home Counties branch of the Railway Development Society. Two other books in the series are likely to appear soon.

Yours sincerely,
H. TREVOR JONES,
Flat 2,
11 Guildford Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
February 2.

Staying power

From Mr Alan Pidgeon
Sir, In response to Mr Butler's request (January 16) for examples of ex-Service material still in use, I treasure one such article which I feel should qualify.

In 1945 I was detailed to make regular visits over several months to a PoW camp in Germany to interrogate a group of German officers. The war in Europe was over and they were glad to cooperate, partly no doubt with an eye to early release. When this came about, they presented me with a beautiful metal casket which had been fashioned from tin cans

salvaged from the dustbins of the Pioneer Corps cookhouse.

It has stood on my desk for 40 years, in daily use, housing writing materials, keys and odds and ends. Neither rust nor metal fatigue have attacked it in all that time.

As it happened, the camp was code-named "dustbin".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PIDGEON,
Dove Cottage,
Broodgate,
Great Eastern,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Lipstick before the firing squad



Marlene Dietrich with Gary Cooper in Dishonoured

Dishonoured. At the other end, there is the sequenced grande dame of the later solo concerts, furs squirted round her like whipped cream...

Marlene, then, is infuriating, but rarely boring. Dietrich herself makes sure of that. And there is always the supporting programme for succour. Seventeen of her early features are showing, changing daily...

The Disney company's Journey of Natty Gann is fortunately better than its title. Better, too, than a bare synopsis indicates. Natty, played by an attractive newcomer, Meredith Salenger...

Twenty or 30 years ago Disney's film-makers would probably have settled for the bland thrills and spills of a cross-country trek with a four-legged friend...

world, where the unemployed and discarded children haunt the streets or crouch in shanty towns next to hillboards with the ironic slogan 'Home by Train - Travel While You Sleep'...

Some of the world's worst and cheapest films deal with mankind on its last legs. Roger Corman's The Last Woman on Earth, with a tedious cast of three, immediately leaps to mind...

For the first 30 minutes, however, The Quiet Earth exploits its situation with likable verve and wry humour. The scientist here, decently played by Bruno Lawrence...

tooting on a bass saxophone, moving into desirable addresses, boring himself with snooker. Then his mind starts to crack, the girl shows up, and the film backslides.

International imports dominate this week. The Scorpion hails from the Netherlands, while Switzerland offers Dangerous Moves - last year's mysterious Oscar-winner as the Best Foreign Film...

At least Ben Verborg, director of The Scorpion, is a film-maker to his fingertips, eager to tell his stories with a visual flourish. The plot concerns a petty embezzler sucked into a political conspiracy stretching back to the Indonesian war...

Geoff Brown

Theatre

Instruments of corruption



Joanne Whalley as Bianca, Nigel Davenport as the Duke

Women Beware Women Royal Court

Second only to Dr Faustus, Women Beware Women is the most tantalizingly imperfect masterpiece in the classical repertory. For four acts, Middleton coolly unfolds the story of a double seduction, showing marriage, love, and physical disgust all succumbing to the power of money...

But at the moment you have come to trust the author as a modern voice speaking clearly across the centuries, the play abruptly subsides into period convention and surrenders all its complex truths and detailed humanity for the rusty machinery of a Jacobean revenge plot.

Middleton was a writer who regularly worked in collaboration and you can see the appeal of bringing in a contemporary collaborator to put the piece back on the rails, especially as the task has been taken on by Howard Barker, well known as a neo-Jacobean. The first half of the evening runs roughly as expected, with a condensed version of Middleton's text...

The ninety-minute second half, however, is no mere rewrite ending but an energetically sustained attempt to push the entire work in a different direction. Middleton shows sex no less than money as an instrument of corruption...

At least Ben Verborg, director of The Scorpion, is a film-maker to his fingertips, eager to tell his stories with a visual flourish. The plot concerns a petty embezzler sucked into a political conspiracy stretching back to the Indonesian war...

grand adversary of money and political power, and his main emphasis goes on asserting its regenerative powers even for the Duke (played by Nigel Davenport) and the arch-procurer, Livia. To this end, he revivifies all Middleton's victims, and introduces a new victim of his own - the Ward's companion, Sorrido, originally a loutish side-kick, transformed into an embodiment of the alienated young who bursts into the court and rapes Bianca on the morning of her marriage with the Duke.

What is missing, though, despite the apologetic energy of the language, is any trace of narrative invention to supplant Middleton's ending or relate the piece to a later-day society where everything and everybody is for sale. The impact, indeed, is more Jacobean than Middleton, and more remote.

The dominant impression of William Gaskin's production is one of long-range strategy, which has led the company to soft-pedal the first act so as not to clash openly with the second. Bianca's husband Leantio, for instance, is a humble factor who has managed to win an upper-class girl. When the RSC first revived the piece in 1962 it came over as a class-warfare drama akin to Look Back in Anger.

Hypergamma, however, has no place in Barker's scheme, and Steven Rinkus's Leantio is simply a good-looking boy in black tights who may lose his wife, but can still find crude salvation with the wily Livia. Livia herself, one of the greatest female roles ever written, receives a highly mannered performance from Maggie Smedley, who holds the role at arm's length, seeming to mock it, until, in the second act, she erupts into sexual passion and sheds her old personality like a dead skin.

The production, played on a bare, pillar-flanked stage, is austere to the point of stasis during the eventual first act, and bursts into animated movement for the eventless sequel. Everything has been done, in short, to give full force to Barker's work (including spectacular performances from Simon Russell Beale and Gary Oldman) but I was left mainly wishing that Joanne Whalley's delicately cruel Bianca had been given the chance to play the original text, poisoned arrows and all.

Irving Wardle

Television

TV Eye (Thames) marked the first anniversary of the teachers' pay dispute by paying a brisk visit to a comprehensive school in Richmond, Yorkshire, a comfortably middle-class town whose ancient streets flood with 1,500 teenagers every lunchtime, there being no teachers prepared to supervise them.

As in the best produced school play, everyone acted true to type. The benignly sensible headmaster spoke of the "disintegration from within" caused by the "agony of spirit" among his "very, very fine colleagues"; his rather dull staff vented the grievances that have led them to withdraw "goodwill" for the past 12 months; the brighter pupils expressed qualified sympathy for their

mentors (whom they rivalled for artistry); a meeting of double-glazed, mortgage-paying parents threatened to sue the local education authority for failing to meet the provisions of the law; and a half-moon-bespattered NUT demagogue drew a standing ovation from his loyal members.

The programme did well to present a balanced round-up of the various factions' views in a scant half-hour, but it would have been refreshing to hear at least one dissident voice among this orgy of ineffectual - if not a contented teacher, then a scholar who was not cheated off about the loss of lessons and extramural activities. Those of us old enough to have children preparing for GCEs this summer are properly per-

urbed at the patchy tuition and postponement of new curricula that have resulted from this disruption. Meanwhile, ACAS has arbitrated without managing to conciliate; Introspection holds sway; the money will probably have to be found. Perhaps this report's most useful function was to advertise the teachers' continuing case. Notwithstanding their hefty holidays, they have, in the eyes of many, been underpaid. The Head of English at Richmond, for example, pulls in a decidedly meagre £12,000. Small wonder that her senior pupils have no apparent insight into what "hopeful" can and cannot mean.

Martin Cropper

Concerts

BBC SO/Pritchard Barbican

The BBC rarely lets its Symphony Orchestra out of the new-music paddock to roam among the buffaloes of the 19th-century orchestral repertoire, at least not in the winter season. So it is good news that the orchestra's principal conductor, Sir John Pritchard, is directing all four Brahms symphonies this week at the Barbican. Less good news for the Corporation is the public's response, or rather the lack of it.

Perhaps the low attendance for this programme of the First and Second Symphonies reflected the fact that across the river the Cleveland Orchestra was drawing a big crowd. If so, that is ironic, because the BBC SO - with its string sections, by London standards, luxuriously augmented (10 double basses here, for instance) - is currently producing a remarkably tubby-toned tutti itself.

Pritchard is too experienced not to know how to make such a big body of strings sound wonderful. And when Pritchard drove his forces hard at the

rhythms of No 1's closing few pages, the result was compelling.

Too often, though, that driving impetus was not strong enough. Rhythmic definition became fuzzy (the outset of No 2's finale was a casualty here) and there was a tendency for phrases to trail off incompletely, especially where Pritchard was quickening the tempo. One admired the ultra-smooth phrasing - but only in No 2's allegretto was there sufficient contrast. Indeed, Pritchard seemed to eschew entirely that most magical of orchestral effects: a large body of strings playing absolutely pianissimo.

If articulation on a bar-to-bar level could have been more imaginatively varied, there was compensation in Pritchard's spacious yet flexible pacing of the larger paragraphs. The pungent discords of No 1's first movement hit deep, and in the same symphony's allegretto he judged perfectly the moment to move from urbane lyricism to more forceful passions. The orchestra played well for him too; there is another chance to admire this very big band at the Barbican tonight.

Richard Morrison

Cleveland Orchestra/von Dohnanyi Festival Hall

If one of the purposes of a visiting orchestra is to stir a concert capital into questioning and re-assessing its understanding of repertory works, then the Cleveland Orchestra, at the start of their 21-concert tour of Europe, have already succeeded triumphantly.

Christoph von Dohnanyi's understanding of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is revealed only in its end, in a finale which for the first time for me vindicated itself totally and finally. From the start, von Dohnanyi forces the listener to re-assess all sense of scale. The first movement pitted fragments and angles of phrasing against tall, near stifled climaxes; the steel-spiked scherzo was a masterpiece of miniaturism. And the Adagio was a mesmerically compelling experiment in creating canonicity purely by the steady, precisely calculated movement of each note. But what did this all add up to?

Robert Lloyd's magnificent entry with Beethoven's introductory words to the Ode of Joy revealed all. By refusing even in a so-called canonic and even in recitative, to anthropomorphize his orchestra by letting them for one moment anticipate the human voice, von Dohnanyi was able suddenly to floodlight the full expressive purpose of the voice itself. And, by taking Beethoven at his word ("when an idea comes to me I hear it on no instrument, never on a voice") and treating his chorus and soloists too (Kariita Mattila, Alfredo Hodgson, Siegfried Jerusalem) as instruments to be played upon, deftly and fleetly, he worked the paradoxical miracle of fully fleshing-out the finale's human drama.

This mercurial extended scherzo of a symphony was the thought to insist on standing alone. It was preceded with equal originality and distinction by Gunter Reich's performance of Schoenberg's melodrama "A Survivor from Warsaw" juxtaposed movingly with his bittersweet unaccompanied choral setting, "Friede auf Erden", a most apposite and resonant preparation of the ear and mind for what was to come.

Hilary Finch

Advertisement for 'MOSES' by Rossini, featuring a picture of a man and text about a 'sensational new production'.

Advertisement for 'The Royal Ballet' performing 'La Fille mal gardée', featuring a picture of a ballerina and text about 'Ashton's supreme genius'.

Advertisement for 'DONALD SINDEN in THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL' at Her Majesty's Theatre, featuring a picture of Donald Sinden.

Advertisement for 'ROWAN ATKINSON' performing 'The new revue' at Shaftesbury Theatre, featuring a picture of Rowan Atkinson.

Advertisement for 'Contemporary Music Network' featuring 'THE LONDON SINFONIETTA' and listing various concert dates and venues.

Advertisement for 'THE MUSICAL SENSATION! Les Misérables' at the Palace Theatre, featuring a picture of a character and text about a 'NEW BOOKING PERIOD'.

Advertisement for 'Royal Opera House' performing 'Les Misérables', featuring a picture of a character and text about 'NEW BOOKING PERIOD'.

Advertisement for 'Shaftesbury Theatre' performing 'The new revue' by Rowan Atkinson, featuring a picture of Rowan Atkinson and text about 'Reduced Price Previews'.

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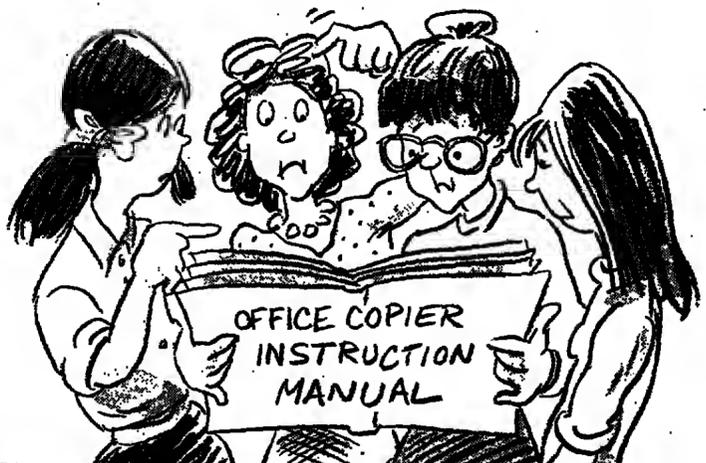
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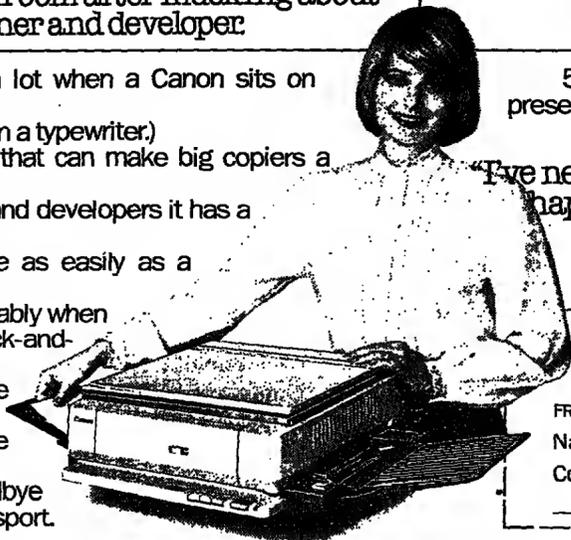
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Demerger to clarify

The Takeover Panel has asked Demerger Corporation to clarify several points concerning its takeover bid for Eitel Group.

The request, described by Mr John Walker-Haworth, director-general of the panel, as "an unusual situation", is believed to be for more information about the identity of Demerger's backers, whether or not it intends to offer Eitel shareholders a cash alternative to its paper bid and its links with Dr Ashraf Marwan, the Egyptian financier.

Mr Peter Earl, a director of Demerger and of its advisors Hincorp Earl, said the full details of the bid would be revealed in the offer document if not before.

Offer for sale

Templeton, Galbraith & Hansberger, a Bahamas fund management group, is coming to the stock market via an offer for sale by Cazenove and Co of 40 million limited voting shares. The price will be set on February 12 and application lists open a week later.

Tempus, page 18

Burton bonds

Burton Group is issuing \$80 million worth of five-year bonds with warrants attached. The issue, arranged by S.G. Warburg, allows Burton to refinance £72 million of its sterling short-term debt. Tempus, page 18

LHW barred

The London International Financial Futures Exchange has won its battle to exclude LHW Futures from membership. In his judgement released yesterday, Sir Anthony Rawlinson, the special commissioner appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England, upheld Liffe's contention that LHW, whose dealings have attracted widespread publicity, would damage its reputation. Sir Anthony also supported Liffe's argument that LHW did not have the standing suitable for a Liffe member.

● **BURMAH OIL:** Hazell has completed sale of its operations in Holland. Partco Rijk has been sold to the senior managers of the company and Quinton Hazell Nederland to Standard Quality Parts. The amount to be received by Burmah is expected to be in region of £2 million.

● **COURTAULDS:** A new agreement was announced today for long-term scientific and technical cooperation between Courtaulds and the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Soviet Union. Dr Norman Wooding, Courtaulds' deputy chairman, said: "The agreement represents a new initiative in the strengthening of the major trading partnership which has been fostered over more than 30 years."

FOR EXCHANGES

The dollar lost ground against most currencies. The pound was weaker than opening levels against most other units, though it remained a touch firmer.

Morning attempts to sell the dollar failed to push it through a key level at DM2.3820. It was weaker against the Swiss franc at 2.0190 (2.0235). The French franc gained at 7.3160 (7.3250) while the yen was little changed at 190.70 (190.65).

MONEY

The money market shortage was larger than expected and this pushed money up to 13 per cent in the interbank market. The market remained uneasy about the outlook for oil prices, but it was conceded that the authorities have the upper hand for the present on 12.5 per cent base rates. Bills settled back, no more than marginally above the Bank of England's intervention rates, while a degree of firmness in interbank periods was confined to the short end.

The Bank of England's bill operations totalled £570 million in the morning and it bought a further £182 million of bank bills in the afternoon. This lifted total bill operations to £752 million.

Argyll raises Distillers bid to record £2.3 billion

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Group yesterday raised the bid in the auction for Distillers, the Scotch whisky group, to a new record figure of £2.3 billion.

At the same time the supermarkets and food manufacturing concern launched a scathing attack on the management record of its rival bidder, Guinness, and that company's claim to be a dynamic new force in international brand marketing.

The timing of Argyll's new offer took the stock market by surprise. Stockbroking analysts were at a loss to explain why Argyll should raise its offer before learning whether the £2.2 billion bid by Guinness would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A reference of the brewer's bid would leave the field clear for Argyll.

Mr Gulliver said the new offer gave his group flexibility to buy shares in the market and reemphasized his company's commitment to acquiring Distillers.

Argyll immediately took advantage of the new bid to buy six million Distillers shares in the stock market, raising its effective stake to 22.5 per cent. Mr Gulliver indicated that the group's merchant bank, Samuel Montagu, would carry on buying until it reached the maximum 15 per cent stake allowed under takeover rules.

Mr Gulliver said Argyll recognized the commercial reality that it had to increase its terms at some stage, and that by doing so now it achieved an element of surprise.

He denied that the new terms indicated that Argyll had already taken the view that the Guinness offer would not be referred. He also rejected the suggestion that Argyll had raised the terms to put pressure on the Government to refer the rival offer. The Government might have



James Gulliver, an element of surprise, has been tempted to let the Guinness bid go ahead while the Argyll offer was lower on the grounds that it could be depriving Distillers shareholders of higher terms if it did not.

Argyll is offering 11 of its ordinary shares, 10 new convertible preference shares and £15 in cash for every 10 Distillers shares, putting a value on each of 645p. Subunderwriting of a cash alternative offer worth 600p a

share was successfully completed yesterday by the stockbroking firms, Rowe & Pitman and Panmure Gordon.

Argyll said that its earnings per share would rise by 24 per cent if the new offer were successful. A new offer on the same terms by Guinness would involve the brewer in earnings dilution of more than 20 per cent, Argyll said.

Mr Olivier Roux, a senior Guinness director, said the claims were "rubbish". He said that Argyll shareholders would be getting "an extremely raw deal" under the new terms.

Guinness's chief executive, Mr Ernest Saunders, said the company remained firmly committed to and "convinced of the benefits both to Distillers shareholders and the industry of the merger with Distillers". Guinness would be reviewing its position with Distillers but still awaited a decision from the Government on whether the offer would be referred.

Opec may meet on Budget day

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Leading members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) are considering calling a full-scale ministerial meeting to coincide with the British Budget on March 18 in a bid to increase downward pressure on North Sea oil prices and highlight the importance of oil prices to the British economy.

The price confusion which normally surrounds a full-scale Opec meeting would, they argue, eat into Britain's revenues from the North Sea as Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, announces the Government's economic plans.

A large faction within the 13-member oil producers' cartel maintains that in March 1983, when Opec set output quotas during its London meeting in London, Mr Lawson, then Energy Secretary, gave Opec an assurance that North Sea output would be limited to 2.1 million barrels a day.

The Government has consistently denied this and since then, North Sea output has risen to around 2.7 million barrels a day.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa, the Kuwaiti oil minister, said yesterday: "I have already said that in the absence of an agreement between Opec and non-Opec members, prices might reach \$10 a barrel."

However, even a sharp fall in prices would be unlikely to persuade any of the oil companies producing offshore to cut back.

● The pound bounced back above \$1.40 yesterday, benefiting from a slight firming of oil prices and dollar weakness, writes David Smith.

The sterling index gained 0.3 points to 73.9. Brent crude oil for delivery in March, after falling to a recent low of \$15.70 a barrel on Wednesday, recovered to \$16.50.

The pound rose to \$1.4050, before slipping back at the close of London trading to \$1.4002, still a gain of around a cent on the day.

UK firms likely to win big USSR orders after accord

By Edward Towse, Industrial Reporter

Nine British companies represented on the British-Soviet Joint Commission stand to win orders worth hundreds of millions of pounds as a result of the new economic and industrial accord reached between the two countries yesterday.

Engineering companies and suppliers of process plant and heavy industrial and power station equipment are among those most likely to succeed. The two sides in the discussions, due to be completed tomorrow, are concentrating on areas such as chemicals, oil and gas, metal industries, machine tools, and other high technology sectors.

Two companies, John Brown and Davy McKee, are already bidding for several chemical industries turnkey projects and Simon-Carves is bidding for process plant subcontracting work for a big new polyester factory in Russia.

Courtaulds, which has been a supplier of textiles to the USSR for more than 30 years, has recently had discussions with the Russians on the modernization of a textile factory in which it was involved 20 years ago.

Another of Britain's big engineering groups, Babcock International, has recently reached a technical agreement with the Soviet Union which could lead to further business for the company in areas such as gas treatment and coal gasification.

The industrial marine division of Rolls-Royce is hoping for more power station turbine orders. Rank Xerox, also represented on the Commission, sees more opportunities for exports of photocopiers.

Barclays Bank and Morgan-Grenfell Holdings are also members of the Commission, reflecting the importance both countries attached to funding of large industrial projects. The new five-year programme states that within the framework of relevant legislation both sides will make efforts to provide



The British team at the trade talks: Paul Channon (left), Alan Clark and Sir Bryan Cartledge

February, emphasizes the refurbishment and modernization of existing plant and, said Mr Clark, this was an area in which British companies could have good prospects.

Trade between Britain and the USSR tends to fluctuate wildly because of the large value of individual projects such as chemical factories. However, Britain is in eighth position in the list of Western world exporters to the Soviet Union, the leader being West Germany followed by Finland.

UK exports to the USSR were worth £735 million in 1984 but fell to a provisional figure of £537 million in 1985.

The 1984 total included unusually high re-exports of non-ferrous metals, mainly silver and tin. Imports from Russia were worth £854 million in 1984, falling to an estimated £725 million last year.

Britain's biggest purchases from Russia are raw materials, mostly oil and oil-related products, cork and wood, hides and skins, chemicals and road vehicles.

The London session of the Joint Commission is the 13th since it was established in 1970. And its highlight is the new long-term programme for economic and industrial co-operation.

Under the programme's general provisions the participation of organizations, enterprises and firms of the two countries in co-operation projects may comprise the provision of patents, licences, know-how, technical information and new technology.

Reagan report scales peaks of optimism

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The White House is irrepressible. Hot on the heels of spending proposals which merely served to illustrate the atrocious tensions in American budgetary policy, President Reagan yesterday predicted three more years of robust growth. Some 4 per cent or more each year, he maintained, could be expected as the result of a successful "economic formula" lodged in the early days of his Administration.

In his 1986 economic report to Congress Mr Reagan said that, despite a painful transition from the recession of 1982, the United States was now poised for a new era of sustained growth. Its hallmarks would be low federal spending, low taxes, limited federal regulations and, most important, low inflation.

The report is nothing if not optimistic. It concedes that America's trade deficit will fall a little this year from the record \$148.7 billion recorded in 1985. But it argues that increased business investment and continued consumer spending will raise America's growth rate from 2.5 per cent in 1985 to 4 per cent. Unemployment, it forecasts, will decline slightly, to 6.7 per cent, and inflation will rise only modestly, from 3.2 per cent to 3.8 per cent.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, serves as the Administration's chief optimist. Undeterred by the failure to meet growth figures in last year's official forecasts, he brushed aside private economic forecasts for 1986, which are mainly well below those of the Administration. He has one genuine cause to believe outside forecasts are too low: few take account of the most recent fall in the oil price. The consensus among private economists is growth of 3 per cent this year. But Mr Sprinkel said that, because of the sharp decline in oil prices, most are raising their forecasts.

The President's report does its best to assuage other obvious worries such as the rise in household debt late last year to 82 per cent as a share of disposable personal income (a matter of concern to Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board). At the same time, the report plays down the significance of the national hunch into debt. Americans have become a net debtor nation for the first time since

World War I. The amount of US assets held by foreigners exceeds foreign assets held by the US, and the excess is expanding at an annual rate of \$100 billion.

Pressure mounts to settle ITC debts

As negotiations between the International Tin Council and its creditors drag on, there is an intensifying danger that the issue will be decided by external forces.

The 13 London Metal Exchange brokers involved with the ITC are now paying collectively £800,000 a week in interest charges on positions on which the ITC defaulted. It is a pressure few can stand for much longer.

Worse, the tin price is drifting down to a level at which the arithmetic of Newco, the company proposed by bankers and brokers to take over the ITC's obligations, looks fragile. MINEs are receiving about £5,200 a tonne for their output - noticeably below the £6,000 on which Newco is based and a far cry from the £8,000 enjoyed last October.

There are technical reasons for this. On the supply side, some mines, particularly in Malaysia, are making forced sales. Tin trading started in Kuala Lumpur because Malaysian mines and smelters needed an outlet.

On the demand side, purchases are limited by users' hopes that prices could fall further. But it would be a brave broker indeed who depended on so precarious a balance. The more protracted the crisis, the greater the risk that tin prices will be too low to support even Newco's limited aspirations. For that reason, the ITC is clearly now concentrating its fire on the British Government. Having failed to wring much extra finance from the banks and brokers, the council hopes HMV will shoulder the burden, which by any reasonable standard, is the ITC's.

It is vital the Government does not succumb to this invidious pressure. Considered brutally, it is better that a number of LME brokers go bust than the British Government be inveigled by an organisation, of which it is a member, to assume all the other members' debts.

Low fees for new members

Yesterday's Stock Exchange council announcement that the entry fee charged to new members would be in the lowly range of £10,000 to £50,000 is clear proof, if any more was needed, of the council's fear of market fragmentation.

Entry fees of up to £700,000 were suggested a few months ago when there was much talk about the value of the exchange's assets in both buildings and technology. But the unwelcome appearance last October of ISRO, the proposed International Securities Regulatory Organisation, coupled with the Securities and Investment Board's willingness to accept it as a recognised SRO, have caused a fundamental rethink by the council.

ISRO was the brainchild of overseas brokers and market makers operating in the Eurobond and international securities markets, who were independent of the Stock Exchange and wanted to stay that way.

The SIB's distinction between an SRO and a Recognized Investment Exchange, caused the council further headaches.

The SIB's thinking was that the exchange function of regulating markets should be distinguished from the SRO function of regulating investment business. The Stock Exchange would qualify as both, but to many at the exchange, the distinction was not a necessary one and would pave the way for more fragmentation and duplication. It would also open the door for members of other SRO's like ISRO and Nasdim to use the exchange's facilities.

Yesterday's announcement was the council's answer to the onslaught - "Keep it cheap and keep potential new members sweet".

Applicants with more than 150 approved employees will pay the top price of £50,000 and those with 10 or less approved employees will pay £10,000.

Banks reluctant over new Mexican credit

By Mike Graham and Richard Thomson

Bankers in New York said yesterday that Mexico would need to be rescued from its debt crisis with help from international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Experts believe that Mexico may ask for credit of a further \$4 billion this year as a result of the oil price fall, on top of the \$4 billion it has already arranged to borrow.

After a conference in Manhattan with Mexican government officials, representatives of United States domestic and international banks said that it was unlikely that the banks could provide all the necessary loans to help Mexico to make its interest payments.

The attitude of commercial banks is hardening against lending to Mexico any extra money which may be required as a result of a

Stockley ties up £80m deal

By Judith Hamley

Stockley, the property company, has finalized its £80.25 million purchase of most of the Paternoster Square complex next to St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The Church Commissioners, along with several property companies, have sold the complex - which has six office buildings and a shopping centre - to Paternoster Consortium Ltd, the joint venture led by Stockley.

Its partners are British Land and the pension funds of Unilever and Barclays Bank. The same group has been involved in the successful redevelopment of Unilever's surplus buildings at Blackfriars.

Charterhouse Japhet, the tenant of Sheldon House at Paternoster Square, has confirmed it is buying its building with the consortium for £14 million, making the residual price for the 4.5-acre scheme £66 million.

The consortium intends to invite six leading City architects to put up proposals for the sensitive site which has 300,000 sq ft of space.

The consortium members are each putting equity into the scheme.

Speculative buying helps shares move up to fresh peak

By Our City Staff

Distillers shares jumped 25p to 606p in the stock market yesterday as Argyll Group increased its takeover terms. But intriguingly Argyll declined the chance to snap up a block of 27 million Distillers shares offered by stockbrokers Fielding

The FT Ordinary Share Index closed at 1171.7, up 8.6, a new record.

Newson-Smith at a price of 630p and representing around 7.5 per cent of the Distillers equity.

The shares, cobbled together from about 60 different institutions, were turned down by Argyll on the grounds that it saw no reason to pay more than the market price.

Meanwhile, the Distillers shares still trailed behind the Argyll terms in fears that the new offer could still be sucked into a Monopolies reference with rival bidders Guinness.

Elsewhere, the market moved to another new peak helped by a variety of speculative issues. Government stocks added nearly a

STOCK MARKET REPORT

point on a firmer pound but nits remained unsettled by price uncertainties. Most majors were easier including BP, down 5p at 545p.

Among leaders Glaxo eased 10p to 880p on a downgrading of profits by brokers while TI advanced 6p to 40p as dealers continued to dream of a bid from Evered, 15p down at 538p.

An advance in textiles was led by Courtaulds, 6p ahead at 226p. Rumours of a counter bid pushed Coats up 6p at 231p.

The video tie-up with Woolworth boosted Prest-

with 12p at 136p while thoughts of a bid from Pleasurama left the brewery group Vaux 7p up at 380p.

In stores Dixons were 15p to the good at 994p ahead of next week's share split while tipsters helped S.W. Berisford move to 149p, a rise of 5p.

Amstrad continued to be a pacemaker and struck a fresh peak of 288p, a 12p rise on the day, on increased profits likely from its compact discs.

There was keen speculative interest in Illingsworth, up 10p at 113p, James Neill 12p better at 196p, and Hickson Interna-

Applications must be in today for Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, with merchant bankers Flemings yesterday doing its best to cool interest in the issue following news that the city's grey market in the shares has created a premium of over 20p. The bankers feel that this may be creating false hopes.

\$5 million expansion

Dawson International, the Scottish textile company which last week announced a £633 million merger with the much larger Coats Patons, is to spend £5.2 million expanding its knitwear subsidiary, J and L McGeorge.

Production capacity will be increased by up to 30 per cent. There will be space to accommodate further growth, and 140 jobs will be created over the next five years.

A new factory at Dumfries - it will be ready in mid-1987 - will cost £3.55 million, and plant and machinery will cost £1.65 million.

WALL STREET

ence of a major correction. In the long-term the market is "very bullish," said Mr Hildegard Zeporski, of Prudential-Bache Securities.

AT and T was the most active issue, losing 1-4 to 21 5-8. PepsiCo followed, down 2 3-8 to 70 1-4.

Prices were higher in active trading on the American Stock Exchange.

TEMPUS

Bulls beef up the gilts market but US lags

The gilt market started stabilizing late on Wednesday, witness the storming performance after hours of the tap, Treasury 10 per cent 2003, which advanced nearly 1/2 point to £36 7/8. Yesterday saw a continuation of the trend after a comparatively quiet start which saw prices drifting fractionally. But by late morning the bulls were definitely in the ascendency and good quality selective buying pushed prices ahead over lunch by some 1/4 point. By mid-afternoon, the tap was trading a large buying order below £37.

refinancing package was un-inspired, and investors were waiting to see whether the Japanese would sail in to buy the 30-year bonds. With new jobless insurance claims falling to record lows of some 316,000 and good numbers coming out for December construction and factory orders, the US real economy is plainly strong. But the perversion of the spirit of Gramm-Rudman, visible in the packing of the defence programme in the Reagan outline Budget for 1987, means the fiscal-monetary balance could be anywhere.

John Templeton, who is bringing his company, Templeton, Calvert & Hansberger, to the stock market next week, has looked after other people's money for 45 years. He now has nearly £7 billion (£5 billion) under management, representing the savings of about 400,000 investors. Taking the Morgan Stanley Capital International World Index as a guide to standard practice, Templeton is overweight in America, Canada and Australia and substantially underweight in Japan and Britain, though that has not stopped the company choosing London as a market for its own shares. America, which accounts for 65 per cent of Templeton's investments against a Morgan Stanley weighting of 49 per cent, has plenty of undervalued growth stocks, according to Mr Templeton. He is, however, particularly keen on the depressed Canadian market, partly because the limit on wage earners' contributions to private pensions is likely to be raised from Can\$5,000 a year to Can\$15,000. Mr Templeton believes that Britain's economic prospects are reasonable, but that there are few bargains to be found in London. He says Japanese ratings are too high, so only 2 per cent of the funds are invested there. Mr Templeton is clearly a man of independent thought. Whether that in itself will ensure the share issue is a success remains to be seen as the shares will not be priced until February 12. We will return to the subject of Templeton after that date.

Burton Group

Burton Group has learned the hard way that being clever is not enough to impress the stock market. Yesterday its shares fell a further 12p to 516p, making a two-day fall of 28p, as dealers realized that the impressive-sounding bond issue, announced on Wednesday, would make little impact on Burton's perceived problems.

The bond issue looked so complicated that some dealers initially thought it more significant than it really is. In essence, Burton is issuing dollar-denominated notes with warrants, convertible into shares at 544p. The dollar liability will be converted into sterling from the outset so that the company will raise £72 million now and the cost of these borrowings will be only 7.5 per cent. In return, it stands to issue 13.4 million shares in five years time, if the warrants are exercised.

But if the test of any bond market is whether debt can be sold easily without depressing sentiment, then the US, by mid-session yesterday, was lagging where UK market managers have recently excelled. The response to the second leg of the US Treasury's jumbo \$24 billion

Templeton

shares back to their peak it will have to do more than this.

Templeton

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Three Month Sterling, Open, High, Low, Close, Set Vol. Includes data for various futures contracts like 3M Sterling, 6M Sterling, etc.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: COFFEE, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, SOYABEAN, COPPER HIGH GRADE, STANDARD CATHODES, LEAD, ZINC, NICKEL. Includes prices for various commodities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns: Market rates, Market rates, Market rates. Includes exchange rates for various currencies like New York, Hong Kong, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns: Local Authority Deposits, Local Authority Bonds, Starting Cds, Prime Bank Bills, Treasury Bills, Gold. Includes interest rates and gold prices.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns: Argentina austral, Australia dollar, Bahraini riyal, etc. Includes exchange rates for various international currencies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: 1985 Low Company, Price, Change, % Change. Lists various investment trusts and their performance.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

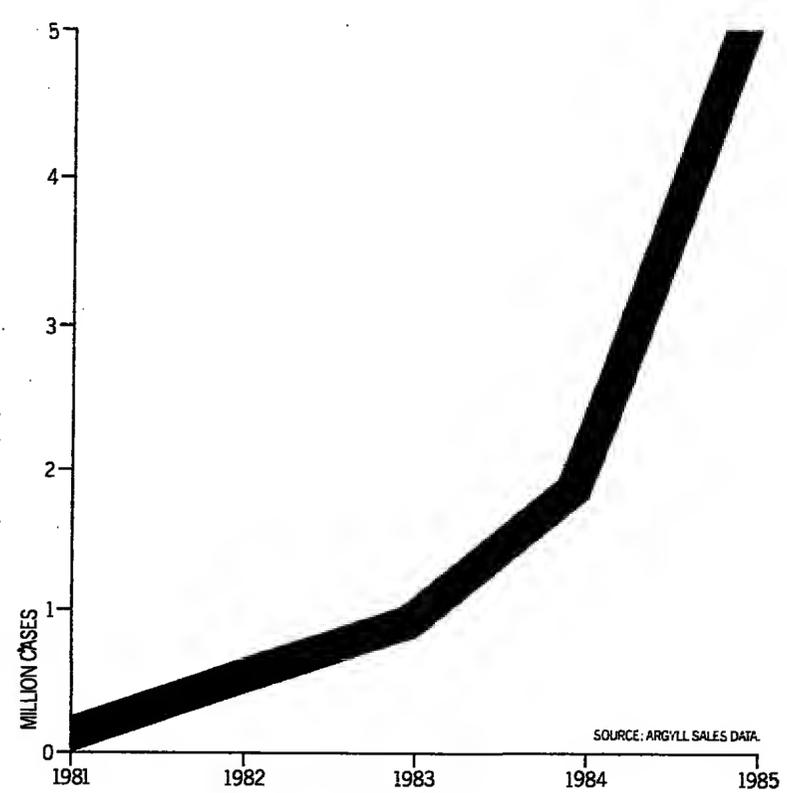
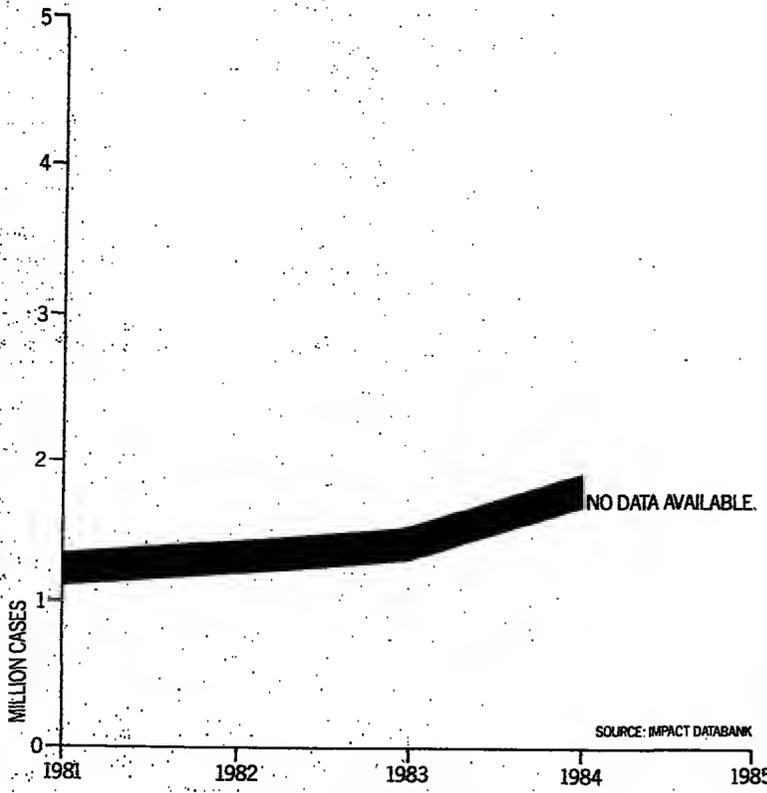
Table with columns: Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, etc. Includes spot rates for various currencies.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table with multiple columns listing various unit trusts, their managers, and performance metrics. Includes sections for UK, International, and other categories.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "مركزنا من الامم"

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Four out of six for Thatcher in her battle with the past

By Kenneth Fleet

There are many ways of gauging Mrs Thatcher's performance. I would judge her by progress in six areas that are fundamental to the renaissance of Britain, while always bearing in mind that no Government can possibly reform in six or eight years the reactionary institutions and outmoded attitudes that flourished as recently as 1979. The six areas are:

- 1 The value of money. A free society and high rates of inflation cannot exist together. Mrs Thatcher made lower, low, indeed nil inflation her central target. Five-plus per cent is not complete success but she has not given up the struggle.
- 2 The overriding authority of autocratic trade unions. To many, though not to timorous and corporatist members of the Confederation of British Industry, the Government has not done enough to curb illegitimate trade union power. But the barons have been brought within the law where they no longer feel free to ride roughshod over elected governments, innocent employers and their own members. The value of laws on secondary picketing and secret ballots has been repeatedly demonstrated. The enforcement of the law in places where the old immunities once stood has had salutary effects.
- 3 The role of the state in industry and commerce. The abolition of controls over dividends, credit, foreign exchange and overseas investment was a magnificent beginning. When the present programme is completed, about a quarter of the state corporations will have been privatized. In terms of greater efficiency, responsiveness and energy, privatization is already a success. The road to a freer society in which decision-making is dispersed and choices are not dictated by a central bureaucracy, each act of denationalization is an important milestone.
- 4 The welfare state. Though kicked, abused and milked in painful and inefficient ways, this is a sacred British cow; the totem guaranteeing desirable standards of health, social security, sickness and unemployment benefits, housing and pensions. Desirable, but unfortunately not easily affordable given the country's economic performance and ageing population. A more sensible approach is to have an order of

but not achievement in reviving the Protestant work ethic. But above all I would give her time. The question for us is whether after a bare six or eight years of Mrs Thatcher and her commitment to a market economy, the more conservative British electorate will also want to put the clock back. With the appalling experience of the 1970s still vivid in most memories, can the answer seriously be "yes" or even "maybe"?

The Government majority in the House is huge but not indestructible, particularly if the electorate has accepted a three-party system and is ready to indulge in strategic voting. No party leader in this century has won three general elections in a row.

In my own view, Mrs Thatcher will be the first, provided she raises the level of political argument and revives the public's confidence that not only does she see her objectives clearly — a free society sustained by energy and talent, dignified by compassion and living by civilized values — but she and her ministers possess the imagination and will to understand and put into effect practical means for achieving them.

Nowhere is this more important than in manufacturing industry. If we are to have a viable mass production motor industry, we need to come to terms with Japanese manufacturers prepared to set up in Britain. If we want to sustain, let alone expand, exports, attitudes among Treasury and other civil servants and British diplomats abroad need to be brought into line with British commercial interests. If we want a significant electronics industry, we need a constructive understanding between British Telecommunications and the companies clustered around BT, plus a positive and determined Department of Trade and Industry. If we want a new dynamic that will not only revive industry but fire the spirit, we need infrastructure projects of the future like EuroRoute (unfortunately set aside in favour of the "safe" Channel rail tunnel) and satellite broadcasting systems.

Progress in privatization is already enough to end the divisions in the political and managerial minds between public and private enterprise. In such an end we would see a new beginning. This is a shortened version of an article that first appeared in *British Credit Trust's* Comment magazine.

On my scale of six, therefore, I would give Mrs Thatcher high marks in her first four tests; no marks for education (ironically education was her first department); and marks for effort

New team named at store

F W Woolworth: The company has named six new buying and marketing managers — Mr Chris Ash, Mr Peter Curtis, Miss Sally Holland, Mr Ken Lewis, Mr Fred Phillips and Ms Jane Eggleston.

Blick Communications: Mr Chris Cankett has been appointed managing director of the manufacturers of Datsal Alpha numeric radio paging systems.

Polymark: Mr Peter Stubbs, managing director of Polymark Technographics, has joined the board of the parent company, Polymark International.

Collins-Wilde: Mr Terry Brand has joined the board, Advisory Service.

First Environment: Mr Mark Fear is to be marketing director. He will also be marketing director of the subsidiary, First Architecture.

Jenson Heavy Metals: Mr Brian Nathan has been appointed to the board. He will also be a director of CSW Engineering.

Homequity: The company has appointed Mr Drew Duncan as director of sales and marketing.

Legal and General: Mr John Hawkins has become marketing communications manager.

Sims Catering Butchers: Mr Brian Glynn has become a director.

Cullen's Holdings: Mrs Ruth Kraus has been appointed commercial director. George Wimpey: Mr R H Sellar has become group managing director responsible for the international and engineering divisions.

Eastlight: Mr T F Bolter has been appointed deputy chairman. He will retain his marketing and sales portfolio. Mr D R Llewellyn becomes managing director and chief executive and Mr S D Helliday financial and commercial director.

Blackwood Hodge: Mr Peter J Wall has been named as a director of Blackwood Hodge Group Services.

Barclays Merchant Bank: Mr Chris Wynn has been appointed an assistant director.

Davidson Pearce: Ms Diana Wooley becomes group company secretary. Mr Peter Selvey has been appointed finance director of the main agency.

Egon Zehnder International: Mr John J Grambar has been elected a partner.

Schering Holdings: Mr Terry James has become chairman and chief executive. Other board appointments include Sir Jock Taylor and Mr Mike Wallace as financial director. The company secretary is Mr Martyn Hargreaves.

Firm with an edge on its rivals

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Chris McCullough at 36 has just pulled back into respectable profit a family cutting tools business launched by his late father nearly 30 years ago. Recession had taken its toll and skill shortages had been a problem.

Now this production-oriented managing director, who confesses to being a lightweight on skills like finance and marketing, is getting off the ground a separate venture which he believes has a world lead in putting a long-life edge on anything made out of metal. It involves impregnating the surface of steel and cast-iron with carbide which is the long-life material whose best-known application is the tungsten carbide tips of masonry drills.

Mr McCullough's breakthrough has been in producing a machine with a high-precision specification which customers can incorporate into their own production process. Users of machine tools and similar equipment report that their equipment's useful life has been extended between five and 20 times. The life of many metal goods, from fish hooks to jet engine turbine blades, can be extended. Carbide's anti-corrosion properties are an additional benefit with household goods, particularly gardening and other tools.

Until the beginning of this month, financing problems meant Mr McCullough was faced with trying to build his machine sales piecemeal. This would have meant forfeiting the chance of order from suppliers in bulk to secure volume discounts. But he is just back from the United States where one of two backers for the new venture has put in orders which, Mr McCullough says, have transformed the situation.

The two McCullough companies are Atlas Broach, which manufactures cutting tools, and the recently launched Carbide Impregnation, both located at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, on an industrial estate adjacent to the M1. It is the



Chris McCullough and the Trakker 1: high-precision breakthrough in cutting tools business

which is still a family concern with Mr McCullough as managing director.

He is also managing director of Carbide Impregnation for health reasons, the works manager at Nelson died, a shortage of skilled operatives grew worse.

Mr McCullough recalled: "By the end of 1982 we were down to 15 people and we had to close down Nelson. I had no administrative experience, having been involved with the factory and technical trouble-shooting. I knew little about sales or marketing."

At the beginning of 1983, prospects seemed bleak as the company fought for business. With companies becoming increasingly cost conscious, it seemed a possibility for Atlas to exploit the carbide impregnation technology as a cheaper alternative to a titanium

nitride coating process whose in-plant installation cost makes it mainly attractive to larger companies with big factories, according to Mr McCullough.

He recalled: "Why not, we thought, turn out a machine for carbide impregnation which we could sell and which would appeal particularly to the smaller user. It had to be electronic and that part of the machine was developed by a specialist company in Luton, just down the motorway."

The problem was raising sufficient backing to get the McCullough machine to the stage where selling could start. It was to be portable and known as Trakker 1. In the financial year to August 1983, the company had a pre-tax loss of £40,000 but then the Atlas operation began to improve, allowing a reduction in the working overdraft, thanks mainly to boosted exports.

Two American industrialists whom Mr McCullough had met in the carbide process put up £15,000 and took 15 per cent of the new-launched Carbide Impregnation company. He met them while seeking business for Atlas in the United States. Last year Atlas turned in a pre-tax profit of £80,000 so some cash could go to help to get the carbide venture off the ground.

With one of the American backers now agreeing to be agent in the US for Trakker sales, Mr McCullough has an order for 50 machines as initial stocking in America. The order is worth around £250,000 (about £183,000). Other sales have been made in Canada, Scandinavia, France and Italy which has enabled the company to proceed on 100 machines overall.

Mr McCullough said: "This has transformed the situation, especially on the costings. We have also made extra headway on some design changes. Now we have to get the machines out on time — and there's still the potential of many other export markets to tap, including Japan."

Zones beckon the leasing companies

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Leasing companies which are rapidly running out of tax shelters in Britain are turning their attention to the fiscal advantages of enterprise zones.

Security Pacific and The Royal Bank of Scotland are among the first to make their names known in significant zone transactions — the RBS for financing Cameron Hall's £120 million out-of-town shopping Metrocentre at Gateshead, and Security Pacific for funding Marples International's 300,000 sq ft office development in London's Docklands.

Now Mounleigh, the fast-growing property company, has put together a deal on 12 acres of land in the Telford enterprise zone, Northhamptonshire. The company will lead and finance the scheme, which is being carried out with Central and Urban Securities. The four-phase project is east of Telford town centre and close to the M54.

Hybrid office and production space is being provided. The first phase has already been let to the Inland Revenue for pure office use at rents of £6 a sq ft, a figure

close to office rents at Telford. Industrial rents are £2.50 a sq ft.

Richard Ellis, the estate agent, which is advising Mounleigh, says that February is the best time to buy ahead of the fiscal year. There are essentially three types of investor in this specialized market — the large leasing organizations, large corporate investors such as pension funds and entrepreneurial property companies and private individuals.

Mounleigh's Telford scheme, which can indeed be described as entrepreneurial, has been priced at a 6 per cent pre-tax yield, rising to 14.5 per cent. Interest costs are being covered at that level with the prospect of some real rental growth later.

The attractions of some enterprise zones are greater than others. Richard Ellis believes that North West Kent, Wellingborough and some of the Scottish and Welsh zones will be the most attractive in addition to Telford and Docklands.

The Isle of Dogs enterprise zone in London has already attracted Security Pacific. And GT Management, one of the City's biggest investment houses, intends setting up an office there. The company recently bought Blackwell Grant, a small private company set up by Mr Nickolas Medhurst

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COMPANY NEWS

- **GREENBANK GROUP:** The company has acquired from J. Blakeborough and Sons, a subsidiary of Hopkins Holdings, its water and effluent screening equipment product lines for £89,000 cash. This "significantly enhances" Greenbank's standing as a worldwide supplier of this type of equipment.
- **CHEMTRONIC:** A total of about 87 per cent of the rights issue of convertible preferred ordinary shares have been taken up. The balance of 1,090,284 has been sold in the market at a premium and the net proceeds will be distributed pro rata among the provisional allottees except that any individual amounts of less than £2.00 will be retained for the benefit of the company.
- **CEMENT-ROADSTONE:** The group's Netherlands subsidiary, Van Neebos, has acquired Sürüç Bouwmarkt, an operator of five DIY superstores, for 4.2 million florins (£1.2 million) cash. In 1985, these stores had sales of 20 million florins and a profit of about a million florins. This brings the number of stores in the Van Neebos DIY retailing division to 19 with 375,500 sq ft of covered floor space.
- **RUO ESTATES:** The company is paying a final dividend of 4p (11.2p), making a total of 7p (18p) for the year to June 30, 1985. Turnover fell from £5.72 million to £2.97 million. Pre-tax profit slumped to £1.55 million (against £4.19 million). Earnings per share were 65.2p (151p).
- **TUNSTALL TELECOM:** Mr Michael Dawson, the chairman, told the annual meeting that with four months of the current year behind it, the company is receiving a record level of orders.
- **GP:** The company has acquired from Orbis Publishing the assets of its book publishing division, which has annual sales of £8 million, for £2.7 million cash. The business, which specializes in illustrated books, will in future trade as Orbis Book Publishing Corporation.
- **THORN EMI:** The company intends to offer 85p cash for each of the 662,193 6 per cent preference shares. Thorn EMI, although holding all the ordinary shares, does not hold any of the 6 per cent preference.
- **COOKSON GROUP:** The company has acquired through Wauconda Tool and Engineering Co of Algonquin, Chicago, and also an 80 per cent holding in General Metals Finishing of Attleboro, Mass., with an option to purchase the remainder. Wauconda is a designer and manufacturer of complex precision metal stampings for the automotive and electronic industries. GMF specializes in the plating of metal stampings for the automotive electronic and jewellery industries. The total consideration is not material in relation to the net assets of Cookson Group.
- **SEARS ROEBUCK:** Consolidated net income for 1985 \$21.3billion (\$21.45billion) or \$23.53 (\$24.01) per share.
- **KLARK-TEKNIK:** Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of Dearden-Davies Associates. The maximum consideration is £750,000 in cash and the issue of 1.53 million ordinary shares.
- **CHEVRON CORP:** Gulf Oil (Ireland), wholly owned by Chevron Corp, announces as operator for Irish offshore licence 5/82 a discovery of oil in well 50/6-1. The well, which has been plugged and abandoned at a total depth of 7750 ft, is located in the Celtic Sea off the South-east coast of Ireland at a water depth of 240 ft.
- **FALCON MINES:** For the quarter to Dec. 31, compared with the previous quarter, with figures in \$Zambian000, total mine profit 1,130 (1,771). Pre-tax profit 1,290 (1,792).

Companies urged to help start-ups

Medway Enterprise Agency, which after nearly four years of operations claims to have created or saved more than 2,900 jobs locally, is looking for more sponsors among bigger companies willing to help. The agency has been tackling the aftermath of the Chatham Dockyard closure by encouraging start-ups of small businesses and counselling existing small companies.

Some 600 start-ups have had assistance through the agency, and counselling has helped about 300 existing companies to expand. To stimulate business, trade exhibitions have been organized and a club launched to encourage trade among local businesses.

Local authorities have already provided some business premises for smaller companies but the agency is also negotiating to set up a big workshop development in the Medway towns which will also offer counselling and help with marketing of goods and services.

One key sponsor is GEC Avionics, whose factory is at Rochester. Lloyds, BP and Barclays Bank together with local authorities are also among the sponsors. Mr Glyn Thomas, the agency chairman, says that sponsorship can pay off because an area with rising employment is

MR FRIDAY

"Honestly, I'd love to give you the contract but I was fired this morning"

Young people in particular can benefit from being introduced to the option of self-employment because it exposes them to a wider range of career choices and equips them with skills for use in life generally, according to a new publication, *Guidelines for Youth Enterprise*, just out from Business in the Community, the umbrella body for enterprise agencies.

The guidelines are intended to help mainly those staffing enterprise agencies as well as other professionals working with young people. They have been researched by David Grayson, cofounder of Project North East, an enterprise agency based in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr Grayson said: "In the future more and more people will be working for themselves for at least part of their time in some of their work."

Businesses will be judged on turnover and profit growth, product or service innovation, customer satisfaction, staff relations and the use of modern technologies. More than £70,000 in prizes is on offer, with the winner due to pick up £10,000 in cash and £2,500 worth of British Telecom equipment.

Entry forms are in local chambers of commerce or British Telecom district offices. Completed forms have to be in by June 15. Those entering should have been established as businesses for at least two years.

Two former barristers, Diane Webber and Suzanne Fisch, who have launched Legal Briefings as a consultancy, offer advice on employment law to small and medium-sized businesses.

Seminars covering the various aspects of individual employment law for people in business can be set up at a client's own premises so no staff time is lost in travelling or attending lengthy conferences.

Contact: Legal Briefings, 96 Millway, Mill Hill, London NW7 3JJ. Telephone (071) 959 8855.

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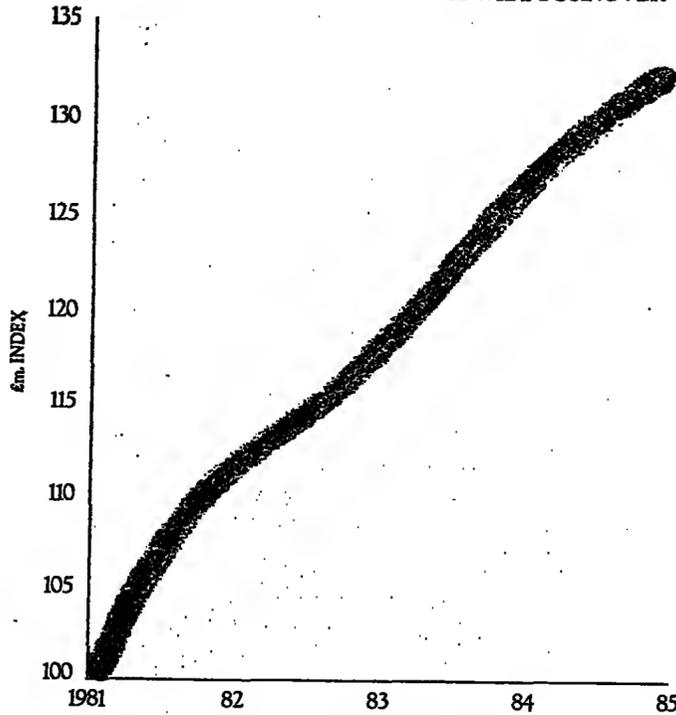
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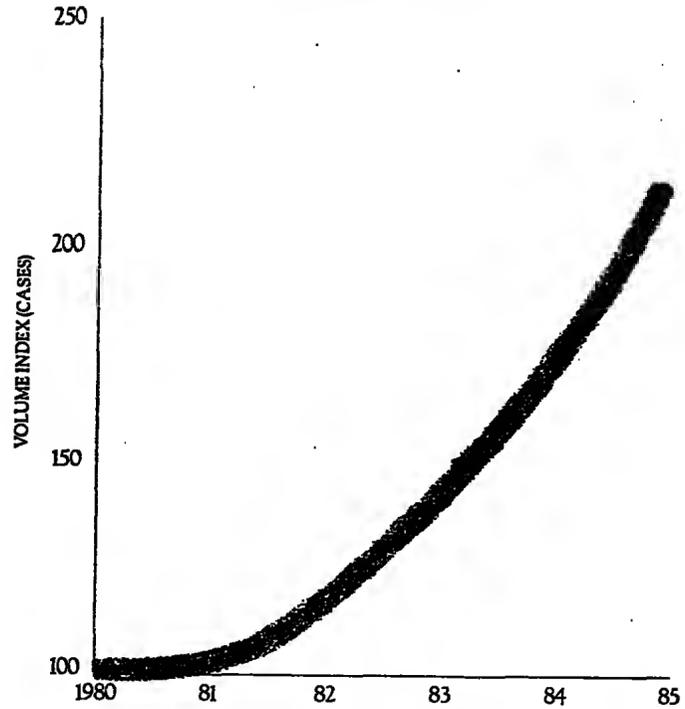
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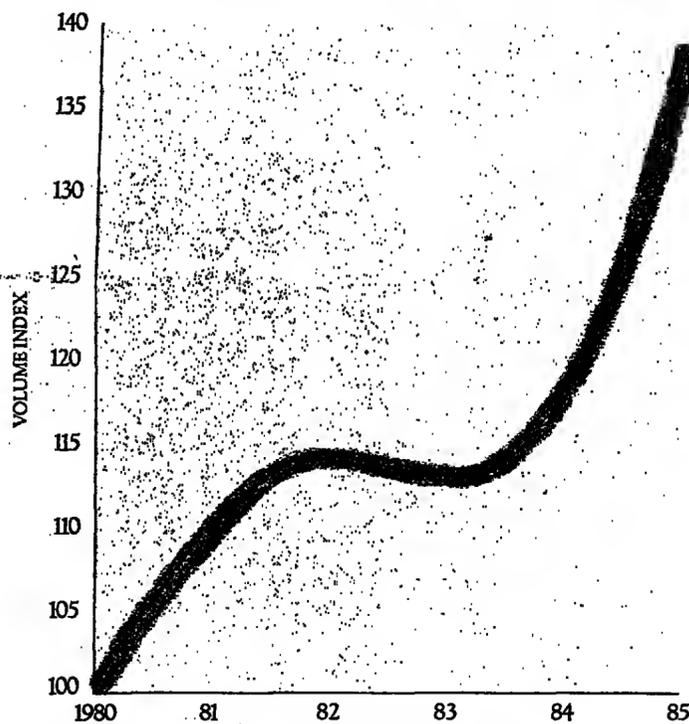
UP 32%

GUINNESS PLC USA SALES



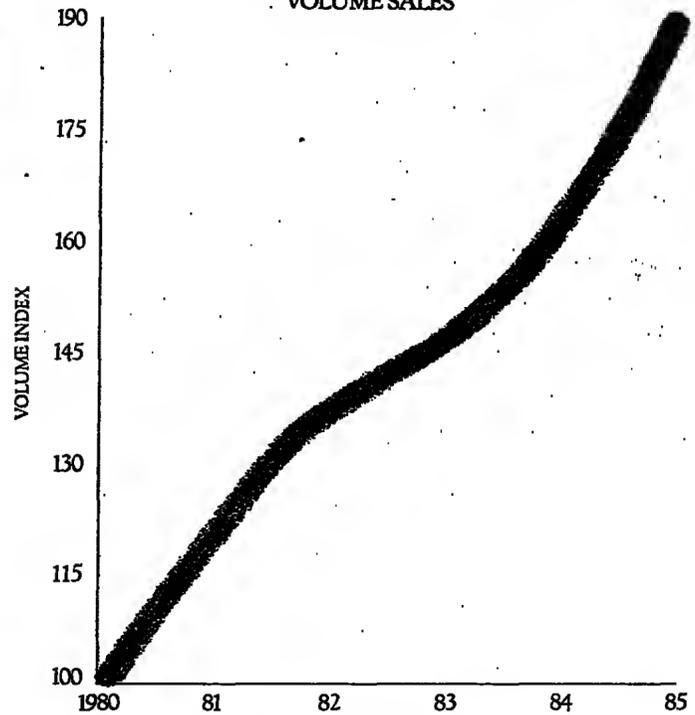
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Table with columns: High Low Company Price Chgs price % P/E. Lists companies under categories like CHEMICALS, PLASTICS and CINEMAS AND TV.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares move ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 27. Dealings End Feb 7. Contango Day Feb 10. Settlement Day Feb 17. Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON SUSSEX UNIVERSITY/1

February 7, 1986

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Bold idea that kept its promise

As the first of the new universities in the 1960s, Sussex quickly developed a reputation for innovation and glamour. It attracted brains and smartness, as well as the daughters of famous politicians, and it set out, as Asa (now Lord) Briggs, the historian and second vice-chancellor, put it, to "review the map of learning".

Whether it quite did that is debatable, but 25 years ago it hoped to effect a revolution in the relations between academic subjects. The theory was that knowledge cannot be divided into neat subject compartments. Schools of study were established rather than departments, and students studied a subject in depth but in different contexts.

Much of that theory remains, particularly in the arts and social sciences, and students still enrol for predominantly multi-disciplinary courses.

Peter Wilby, a Sussex alumni and education correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, says: "No university in history ever launched itself upon the world so boldly, so bravely, so self-confidently as Sussex. It was higher education's contribution to England's little Renaissance of the 1960s, a token that academics could swing along with the Beatles and Mary Quant."

Has Sussex lived up to its early promise? The answer is a qualified yes. The university is no longer particularly fashionable, and colour magazines no longer run articles about students wandering around Brighton's wharf stalls reading Kafka and talking about existentialism.

Indeed, in the present climate of opinion, which emphasizes the importance of instrumentalism in education and cuts in the arts, the university tends to stress its strength in science, particularly in research where its record is outstanding.

Sir Denys Wilkinson, the vice-chancellor, who retires at the end of the year, says:

"Whenever you set up a university you hope it will be respectable in research, but this place has been staggeringly successful."

It has 4,500 students and 1,700 staff, and is consistently among the top three or four universities to attract research funds. In the latest listing of Science and Engineering Research Council funding, it was, in terms of absolute cash, third only to Oxford and Cambridge, even though, as Sir Denys explains, Sussex is classed as "small and arts-based". The university received more of this SERC money than the bottom 12 universities combined.

It has had 17 Fellows of the Royal Society, six times the national average of FRS - half of all universities have no FRS. It had more fellows of the British Academy than all the other new universities put together, and two Nobel prize winners.

The reason for this eminence must be that Sussex was able to attract first-class talent when it was founded in October, 1961.

able to attract first class talent

The university attracted such luminaries as Lord Briggs, Lord Fulton, the first vice-chancellor and advocate of Civil Service reform, and David Daiches, who came from Cambridge and was dean of the school of English studies. They were given carte blanche to create the liberal arts college of their dreams.

Numerically Sussex is still more orientated towards arts than science, with arts students outnumbering scientists by about two to one. But Sir Denys, a distinguished nuclear physicist appointed in 1976 in succession to Lord Briggs, says the university has for many years had a policy of strengthening science.

"We don't want to run down the arts until we can



Academic arbiters: Lord Briggs, standing, and Sir Denys Wilkinson

bring in appropriately qualified science students," he says.

Sir Denys justified the shift in the sciences away from the original Sussex model of schools of study with subjects being taught in other contexts as appropriate. Though they are still within schools of study, the sciences operate like traditional university departments.

An exception, according to Dr Geoffrey Lockwood, Sussex's registrar who has been with the university since its beginning, is the school of biological sciences, which is not divided into separate departments such as zoology, botany, but integrates the study of living organisms and evolution. Another exception is engineering.

Dr Lockwood denies the Sussex principle has been eroded. The original concept of schools of study and "contextuals" was dynamic, so one would expect it to have changed.

He says: "The economic and social situations have changed quite a lot so the university was bound to

change its teaching and research in line with the demands of students, applicants and society at large and taking into account the money you have available."

"When one looks at the differences between this university and the rest, the remarkable thing in many ways has been that so little has occurred. We still have schools of studies based on contextuals and interdisciplinarity. We still have small-group teaching, our research still largely springs from a mixing of different disciplines together. Though applications dropped sharply in the 1970s, from 13,632 in 1968 to 8,114 in 1975, they are climbing again. The tutorial system is modelled on Oxbridge, which means that students are taught in small groups. Sussex avoids the mass of final examinations and has, instead, instituted a varied examining system, based on extended essays and dissertations. Another attraction is its beautiful campus set in the downs with buildings in good condition and designed

Tough challenge over huge funding cuts

When Sir Denys Wilkinson retires this year as the university's vice-chancellor, he will have been 10 years in the top job. He arrived in Sussex in 1976 when chill winds were beginning to blow through the academic cloisters. He was chosen presumably because he was a distinguished scientist and would help to switch Sussex in the direction of science.

Lord Briggs, the historian, had also spent 10 years as vice-chancellor. When he left, he said: "The intellectual excitement of the early days can still be recaptured, but only rarely. In 1960 there was hope, now there is fear."

The big change came with the new Conservative government in 1979, as it did for all universities, specifically with the decision to charge so-called full cost fees for overseas students. This meant Sussex's funding was reduced by 16 per cent in direct relation to its percentage of overseas students.

But the Government assured the universities then that they would receive level funding, that is that the real value of their funding would be maintained. It was not and it is not.

In 1981 came the famous university cuts whereby the University Grants Committee decided how much less each university would get in future. Sussex's cut was about average.

The university was faced with an effective reduction in income in real terms of 21.5 per cent between 1980-81 and 1983-84. Again the university system was promised level funding once these cuts had been made.

Sussex planned its academic profile carefully in late 1981 and early 1982, matching its activities to the number of staff needed. By the end of September 1982 it had lost 30 of the 63 jobs needed by means of voluntary redundancy.

"At the moment we have not yet reduced our academic faculty numbers to the

amount we would have liked in order to break even, and the reason is that we thought we would be on level funding," Sir Denys said.

The university system is now faced with a cut of about 2 per cent a year. Some universities will be cut more than that, some less, depending on how they are assessed in the "selectivity" exercise being undertaken by the UGC. Under this, universities that are strong in research will be awarded more money, and those which are weak less.

Sussex is expected in do well out of this because of its strength in research. "We know we shall do quite well, because part of the UGC's research funding formula will be to give universities 40 per cent of what they get from the research councils," Sir Denys said.

Mode of teaching may have to change

Moreover, Sir Peter Swinerton-Dyer, chairman of the UGC, has said that universities which are favoured in this exercise may be on level funding by the end of the decade. Sussex must be hoping it is in this category, though level funding for some will, of course, mean less for others.

Sir Denys said the potential at Sussex is great, and that only with level funding can it be realized, both in terms of teaching research. Teaching consumes 70 per cent of the university's resources. Sussex has always put great emphasis on the Oxbridge model of small group teaching, but this is being eroded slowly.

Where once the staff/student ratio was 10 to one, it is now 12 to one, and moving in the direction of 13 or 14 to one. "If that number increases, a fortiori students cannot get the degree of individual attention they used to get. We may have to move away from small group

teaching," Sir Denys said.

The staff/student ratio could worsen enough for the university to have to rethink its method of teaching. That, Sir Denys said, could mean moving over to lectures as the sole method of teaching. "We have to recognize that beyond a certain point the mode of teaching may have to change. That is something that universities have not yet had to grapple with."

One aspect of its affairs that Sussex does not have to worry too much about is its own internal organization. The way in which universities manage themselves was criticized strongly in the Jarrett committee report earlier this year, but, according to Dr Geoffrey Lockwood, Sussex's registrar and secretary, who sat on the Jarrett committee, the university was already halfway along the road of implementing reforms in management.

Since the report was published, Sussex has moved about three-quarters of the way along the Jarrett road. It has always possessed some of the characteristics recommended by Jarrett, notably a planning committee which combined buildings, finance, social and academic affairs, and linked senate and the council.

In its estates management it does everything recommended by Jarrett and in financial management it has almost achieved the Jarrett ideal. It had always had budgetary devolution so that each academic unit controls its own budget.

Politically, as was the case in all the universities, there was a hostile reaction to the Jarrett report. People who regard themselves as professionals do not like being told what to do by industrialists when industry is seen to be failing.

"All university members had that feeling," Dr Lockwood said. "But in terms of the practicalities, the report was dealt with pragmatically."

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The institute with a heart

The Science Policy Research Unit is held in high esteem by the Government and other organizations in Britain, and throughout the world. Established in 1966 as the brainchild of Asa Briggs, its aim is to undertake research that will help to advance public knowledge about the relation between scientific and technological development and economic, social and political processes, and the implications for public policy.

It is a research unit for science and technology policy. Its director is Professor Geoffrey Oldham and it is renowned for its work on the development of fifth-generation computers. It is monitoring the progress of the Alvey programme. The unit's work is focussed mainly on solving problems. Natural and social scientists work together on most projects. The unit has three main themes: it tries to understand the nature of scientific discovery and technological development, and how to secure innovation; the problems of efficient management and the evaluation of research and development and innovation; and the economic environment and the social consequences of technical change and its implications for policy.

Though the unit's primary objective is to carry out research, it also has an obligation to teach students. In 1983 it became responsible for organizing and teaching its own postgraduate programme - a master's degree in science, technology and industrialization. It takes other research students - specifically 40 full-time students doing

MSCs and DPhils - and does some undergraduate teaching in a variety of schools of study. But, like the Institute for Development Studies, it does not run its own undergraduate degree.

One of its main activities springs from its designation as a research centre funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to look at science, technology and energy policy in British economic development.

The unit has done a major piece of work for the Cabinet Office under Ben Martin and John Irvine on how one can predict in some areas of science what developments are likely to be more successful than others.

Ian Miles is researching the impact of technical change on the division of

labour and on work and leisure and Julian Robinson is working on military technology and arms limitation. There are about 10 acres of research at the unit: seven people are engaged on the arms-control work. Their aim is to discover what causes states to arm themselves as they do.

The arms-control academics have received their money from the Ford and McCarthy foundations and the Quaker trusts in Britain. The unit also operates its own Armament and Disarmament Information Unit to provide information on almost any aspect of defence control or weapons.

Another important research outfit at the university which, like the Institute

for Development Studies, is entirely independent, is the Institute of Manpower Studies, since 1970 conducting research and advisory work on manpower and labour market problems.

With a staff of 50 and a turnover of £1.2 million, the institute works for the Government, the research councils, other agencies and industry. Its chairman is Sir Peter Walters, chairman of BP.

Much of its research is into graduate employment, particularly in information technology, and the unit is looking at the problem of levels of graduate mobility. It is examining the availability of graduates and whether there will be enough of them for different kinds of future jobs.

Another area of the Institute of Manpower Studies' work is helping individual employers to look at the careers of their staff, known in the jargon as "staff development." It is helping firms to examine how an individual's career can progress without a new job having to be created.

Firms have the problem of how to bring new generations through the company with fewer promotion prospects than previously.

The institute helps individual employers who want to relocate offices and it has been working recently on the shortage of courses. There are a lot of courses working in the community but some areas find it difficult to recruit them.

The unit has looked at the extent to which temporary work is a growing feature.



In the science park: Aisin Seiki, a research arm of Toyota, specializes in energy conservation

In the business of research

The university's success in research is based to a large extent on its close collaboration with big companies, foreign and domestic. Its nascent science park offers help with research and development to all companies, whatever their size, and especially to industrial firms locally.

Sussex has also compiled a Services for Industry programme that includes consultancy services, access to test equipment and workshop and computing facilities, and staff training.

The university is also going into business. It has formed a company called Cognition with the aim of commercializing the university's software ideas. Its function is to produce software products for the marketplace from developments by Sussex academics.

Poplog, the new computer software system, is one example. By adding graphics to it, says John Golds, of Services

to industry, it could be used in a financial environment, such as banks and finance houses.

The science park has one completed building occupied by Aisin Seiki, a research arm of the Toyota group which specializes in energy conservation.

The university is concerned that such companies should be part of the academic community and does not want to set up a speculative science park where there is no guarantee of collaboration.

So right next door to the Aisin Seiki building is the thermo-fluid mechanics research centre, that concentrates on research in heat transfer and fluid mechanics and, in particular, with the

cooling of advanced gas turbine engines, such as the RE211 engines of Rolls-Royce. The aim is to make engines more efficient and to keep fuel costs down. Two Sussex engineers, Professor Fred Bayley and Dr Mike Owen, were awarded first prize last year by the British Technology Group in the Academic Enterprise competition for their work in this area.

A second company, Eurotherm International, is looking for a second building for itself in the science park in order to base the whole of its research there.

The university benefits from this kind of development, says Mr Golds, in various ways.

Sussex has so far worked with more than 100 companies. Dow Corning, for example, the multinational chemical ceramics company, collaborated with the university's chemists on a new form of glass.

Most of this research is sponsored by the Science and Engineering Research Council, Rolls-Royce and GEC-Ruston Gas Turbines. The Sussex researchers hope to combine with the Japanese to develop a small self-contained gas turbine unit for combined heat and power applications.

This is potentially an important development. Until now combined heat and power applications have been done on a large scale, but smaller units would be extremely useful for, say, hospitals, because such self-contained systems use only 80 per cent of the fuel needed in conventional systems.

Most of the work in the centre is concerned with the

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High climbers on the technology tree

Sussex is proud of its reputation in information technology and, in particular, in artificial intelligence where it is ranked among the top three or four universities in Britain. It has established an Institute of Cognitive and Information Services and has a chair of computing science.

Computing is particularly diversified at Sussex and the computing centre enables all schools of study to use computers.

Staff at the centre have developed a microchip that can be plugged into a BBC micro, thereby enabling it to be used as a terminal to the mainframe computing centre. This exciting development which has been bought by a

number of education and industrial organizations. Marketed by Acorn Soft, it is called the Sussex Terminal and brings in valuable earnings for the centre. The brains behind it are Ken Blanchard, Brian Williams and Simoo Barnes, who work at the centre.

The main centres of computing activity in the university are in the cognitive studies programme, a mixture of artificial intelligence, psychology and linguistics, and in the school of engineering and applied science. The school of biological science is also active, but to a lesser extent.

Engineers are inevitably engaged in computing, but at Sussex they are involved in designing what are called large-scale integration chips. Dr Fred Halshall and Professor Dick Grimsdale are working on distributed systems, designing computing systems so that big problems can be shared by several processors.

Both men are associated with research into broadband networks: sending information between computers by a broadcasting system. Professors Grimsdale works on image processing and image generation. The aim of the latter is to produce much more realistic visual displays for flight simulators.

The university has considerable support under the Alvey programme for its work in computers and the number of grants it has been

awarded places it fourth among all universities and colleges. Dr Jim Hunter, supported by Alvey money, is designing expert medical diagnosis systems. This involves writing programs based on artificial intelligence techniques to diagnose cardiac ailments.

Work on artificial intelligence began with people trying to gain a better understanding of human capacities by seeing whether they could write programs that would simulate these capacities.

At Sussex, Professor Maggie Bowden has written a lot about the interaction between artificial intelligence

things has become the stock in trade of artificial intelligence. An example of this at Sussex is the computer-aided design system, Poplog, very special in that it offers users three different powerful languages.

Professor Alanair Chalmers, professor of psychology and academic director of the computing centre, described it as a flexible system which can be used to teach first-year humanities students.

The collaborative work with linguistics involves studying language. The aim is to try to define formal grammars, sets of rules which can be held to underlie everyday language.

It is only two decades since psychologists thought they would be able to account for language in the same way as we account for other skills. They believed language would be amenable to some kind of explanation.

But language is learnt bit by bit. It is a generative process and linguists have developed what are known as generative grammars and sets of rules. Computer language has become more complicated and software engineers rely on linguists to help them to refine and define computer languages.

Sussex has the world leader in this field, Professor Gerald Gazdar, who has formulated "phrase structure grammars". These are more general and are accepted in place of transformational grammar propounded by Chomsky.

In the halting attempt to do so, researchers have developed powerful programming techniques and software tools so that simply getting machines to do complicated

Computer language ever more complex and psychology and philosophy, and what one can learn about each of these from the discoveries of others.

In one of her books, *Artificial Intelligence and Human Nature*, she argues that the evidence of artificial intelligence reinforces what we already know about the uniqueness of humans. The human mind is so complex that one cannot reproduce its capacity.

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A study in the art of inquiry

Arts and social studies are one of the most exciting areas at Sussex with the work organized into five schools of study which are taught in a contextual framework. As Professor Margaret McGowan, pro-vice-chancellor (arts and social studies), explains, the idea is that a student "majors" in, say, economics or history and studies it in depth but in different contexts.

This means that history can be studied in either the school of European studies, the school of African and Asian studies, in English and American studies, in social sciences or in the school of cultural and community studies. The aim is that one subject will inform another and connections made that would be less likely in a conventional university arts course.

Economics studied in the school of European studies would be examined in the context of a European social, political and cultural background.

That makes the subject very different, not least because students spend a year on the continent studying economics in French with French compatriots. Economics is a different subject in France.

This approach to study has, however, been criticized by more conventional academics, and others who have experienced the Sussex model. Peter Wilby, the Sunday Times's education correspondent, studied history at the university in its heyday in the early 1960s. He said a bare majority of his study was on history and that the rest of his time was spent studying literature, sociology and philosophy.

"I covered the 17th and 18th centuries but never found out what happened in the 18th century," he said. During the past 25 years there have been changes in the course work to accommodate this kind of complaint. Some courses have, however, survived from the beginning. One, "The Modern European Mind", was strongly criticized on the grounds that it was brought over in a suitcase from the US.

It is popular with both academics and students. Some of the lecture series for the course have finished up as books. Examples are *Humanity and Warfare*, by Geoffrey Best and *Tolstoy's View of Art*, by Terry Duffley. Professor McGowan explained that the arts and social sciences have tried to



Prof Margaret McGowan and Prof John Murrell: Greater school structure than in a traditional university

combine a prominent figure or activity with the intellectual and political context in which he, she or it existed.

Another course that has survived since the early 1960s is the study of history or literature with philosophy. At Sussex the study of humanities gives an important place to intellectual history. This is not the simple transmission of an idea from one period to another, but the way in which people have thought of themselves as human, social and political beings.

The university has developed a particular specialism in intellectual history from the 19th century onwards. John Burrow is a world expert and Stephen Collini works in the same period.

In music Sussex combines high scholarship with creativity in Jonathan Harvey, a well-known composer and highly regarded scholar. The same applies to English where Gabriel Josipovici is a professor, but also the author of novels, poems.

Since the beginning the arts and social sciences have had a close relationship with the European studies school, and with the US because of its American studies.

The university is developing strong links with Africa and with the Far East - Hong Kong and Indonesia. It is developing a new integrated degree with the aim of attracting students from Indonesia who will spend a preparation year at a language school in Brighton.

A centre searching for a better world

The Institute of Development Studies, based at Sussex University, is Britain's first national centre for the study of Third World problems and was set up five years after the university was established.

It investigates problems faced by the Third World such as rural development (irrigation, crop storage, seasonality), North-South relations (the Brandt report, commodity trade and transnationalism) and gender relations, education and health.

The institute has suffered considerably from the new political climate in the country. Its grant from the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign Office was cut by the Government in 1979, and in future the money would

provide for only 12 research fellows and a director, it was told, instead of the previous 25 fellows and a director. The ODA funding, currently at £1 million, would have been £2 million but for the cut.

The institute reacted by attracting funds from other sources and saved all 25 posts. Another £1 million comes from work for organizations like the World Bank, the food and agricultural organization, Unesco, as well as from Sweden and Canada.

Each member of staff must raise one-half of his or her salary on a complicated work points system. Mike Farmer, the IDS's director, explains that there is a good deal of interaction with the university. Although the staff do not teach

undergraduates, they supervise 70 PhD students and teach two intakes a year of 30 MPhil students. The institute also operates a pattern of three 14-week courses a year for between 20 and 26 people a time. It also runs an annual seminar on food aid.

These short courses attract people from the Third World - administrators, researchers, teachers and other development workers who want to develop new skills, to update their knowledge and to exchange views with people from other countries.

John Oxenham, one of the research fellows, explains that the IDS's research has three focuses: the role of the state in aiding or obstructing development; the part played by the various state sectors - rural development, public

administration, health, education, and status and role of women; and finally, internal order.

Under the last heading are raised such issues as how the policies of rich, industrialized countries affect development and the fight to eradicate poverty. How, for example, do countries differ in how they are hit by international movements? How are developing countries affected by the policies of the International Monetary Fund? Are they adjusting at the expense of the poor?

The institute is aware that in Zambia, for example, infant mortality rates are beginning to rise again. "This is a frightful step backwards," said Mr Oxenham. The institute has a thread in disarmament and develop-

ment through the work of Robin Luckham who has researched Third World military institutions.

The IDS has been doing some interesting work on the "diploma disease", the notion that the relentless pursuit of paper qualifications is an end in itself and does not always lead to productive employment. The argument has important implications for developing countries because if schools are not producing young people with marketable skills development is held back.

Malcolm Segall and Emmanuel de Kadt are researching into the development of the idea of primary health care, mainly in Africa helping Third World countries formulate new approaches to public health.

The chemical and biological aspects of health are of primary concern to Sussex's school of biological sciences which ranks in the top four schools in Britain, with Edinburgh, Dundee and Oxford.

Biological sciences has attracted about £1.2 million for its work from the research councils, the Overseas Development Administration, the World Health Organization and the Wellcome Foundation. Wellcome has given the university a lectureship in biochemistry and the British Diabetic Association has donated a lectureship. And under the Government's new band scheme, the school has been given four new posts.

In 1985/86, biochemistry attracted £754,000 in grants of which 63 per cent was for medically-related research. Dr Irene Green, for example,

Cash for helping health

won a 10-year senior research fellowship from the British Diabetic Association for her research into the way in which insulin is secreted.

One of the largest grants of research money - £200,000 from the Overseas Development Administration - has gone to Dr Tim Flowers for his work on developing a salt-resistant strain of rice, vital because at present rice can only be grown in salt-free water which hampers its growth in tropical countries where salt is brought to the surface and pollutes irrigation water.

Dr Don Thomas, in his WHO-recognized laboratory, is looking at environmental control of the small which causes schistosomiasis or

bilharzia by manipulating the chemistry of the water in the tropics.

Jonathan Bacon is examining neural systems and Professor Mike Land, a fellow of the Royal Society, is looking at the optics of insects - a result is a new wide-field X-ray telescope, an example of how useful things can emerge from seemingly pointless research.

In chemistry, the university's strength lies in the interface between organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. It is probably the leading institution in Britain for organometallic chemistry.

Professor John Murrell, pro-vice-chancellor (science), says there is a greater depth in Sussex's school

structure than in a traditional university. Sussex has a unique degree - chemistry by thesis - whereby you can get a first degree in chemistry by entering a research laboratory in the middle of your first year and spend most of your time doing practical chemistry through project work. Five students a year are able to do this.

Sussex is noted for the work it does in the interface between mathematics and chemistry, and is one of the few places where students can specialize in theoretical chemistry.

In physics the university does much on the structure of materials and electron microscopy. The most consistently excellent academic group is that which includes the five astronomers. They have close links with the Royal Observatory.

New books from Oxford in the arts and the sciences...

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The roof light to the Meeting House. A design in glass and epoxy by Anthony Blee, FRIBA. The Sir Basil Spence partnership continues with Anthony Blee as the senior partner, at One Canonbury Place, London N1, where the Sussex University master plan and the designs for the first buildings were prepared by Sir Basil Spence and his team of architects from 1959 onwards.

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Women's AAA pull off royal coup - with an Olympic Games omen

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

enjoys with the Palace. But the fact that these championships, sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank, are at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham will not be lost on the locals. For Princess Anne is president of the British Olympic Association, whose Birmingham bid for the 1992 Olympic Games is gathering strength daily.

It will also mean that the athletics authorities are fully back in favour in official circles. After the 1980 Olympic Games, the hesitation over honours to British gold medal winners, and the absence of royalty from the AAA Centenary Championships hinted at a radical change in the decision to go to Moscow after the Government had called for a boycott.

The security at Alexander Stadium will evidently have to be far more even than last year, when Miss Budd's presence caused all but the home straight stand to be closed in order to avoid demonstrations against the former South African athlete. Unless injured, Miss Budd's participation is also assured, since, as Miss Hartman stolidly stated yesterday: "Any athlete wishing to compete in the Commonwealth Games has to compete in our championships."

TSB are increasing their sponsorship package this year by about 15 per cent to £35,000, and are delighted with the Princess's decision to attend. The extra money in the package will go towards paying expenses for all athletes - seniors, juniors and intermediates.

The WAAA allocation for the Commonwealth Games has also been increased this year to 30. This is in view of the continuing success of the sport at international level.

Budd: participation assured

SWIMMING

Threadbare look for Britain

By Athole Still

There are no late changes in the 22 British swimmers ten from England's Yorkshire Bank sport and 12 Scots, who will participate in the three-day Arena Festival, which opens in Bonn this evening. They will find the small but competitive field notably higher than in the three recent meetings in Amersfoort, Paris and Strasbourg, with 32 countries represented here and five Olympic and ten European champions already warming-up to the Frankfurt short-course competition.

Adrian Moorhouse, City of Leeds, the European Breaststroke champion, is the only Briton to have won a gold at any of the international meetings this year and unfortunately he will not compete this weekend, which leaves the British contingent with a fairly threadbare look. Nevertheless, Mark Foster, Millfield, the new young freestyle sprint star has already shown outstanding form in 1986 and will be looking for further improvement, and the experienced Stephen Poulter, Wigan Wasps, can be counted on to figure prominently in the long medley and butterfly events.

The Scots are expected to continue their impressive overall improvement although their efforts are targeted on unashamedly at the Commonwealth Games in July. "Last year we came to Bonn for experience," says national coach Hamilton Smith, "and this year we go for performance. The final phase is achievement and that is what we hope for this summer."

The legendary Russian, Vladimir Salnikov, continues his comeback trail after a year-long lay-off due to illness and he will be a major threat to Gross in one or other of the longer freestyle events. The 25 metre course will probably favour the West German enough to give him the edge. However, the highlight of the weekend could well be the men's breaststroke event, where American Rick Carey, the double Olympic champion, meets reformed world record breaker Igor Polanski of the Soviet Union and Dirk Richter of East Germany.

LACROSSE

Promotion a priority

By Peter Tadlow

The All England Women's Lacrosse Association's need over the past few years for increased promotion of their game has become a top priority since the Sports Council doubled their grant last November. First step in the endeavour came this week with the appointment of Janet O'Neill as the All England Development Officer. Mrs O'Neill leaves her job as a City Reinsurance Claims officer this month to go out into the territories of women's lacrosse to develop interest and awareness of the exciting and fast moving game which has been played in Britain for over 100 years. It is a unique game played with a solid rubber ball propelled at great velocity through the air from a net secured to the top of a hickory (or plastic) stick.

Schools are the nurseries for lacrosse but there has been some decline of enthusiasm in recent years. The interest is to be rekindled to build up the sport from its present sound base.

President of the All England Association Maureen Watson said: "We have up to 20,000 student participants and we want the majority of them to continue in the sport in clubs, counties and territories."

It is a difficult game to promote in areas such as Humberside, Devon and Cornwall, North East and North West and parts of Kent where there is little or no interest.

The successful experiment tried in Australia with Soft Crose might well be one of the answers. It is a game with a minimum of rules that can be played in confined spaces with just a few players.

GOLF

Faldo looks for a way back to top

From John Ballantine, La Jolla

American courses span a spectacular spectrum from the green splendours of Pinehurst and Augusta National Golf Club to the sea-girt glories of Cypress Point and Waialae, but it is in the USA where the public courses in the USA give the pleasure to club player and professional alike than the north and south links of Torrey Pines where the San Diego Open began yesterday.

Bernard Langer and Ken Brown who have both made exceptional starts to their 1986 campaigns, and Nick Faldo, who is working hard to overcome his difficulties with a swing which produced horrible scores of 79 and 78 at Pebble Beach last week, join battle with the likes of Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw on this cliff-top golfing wonderland which also has aspects of "sea world".

"For this is the time of year when the 30ft long grey Californian whales migrate from the north down to the warm blue waters of Baja California to breed and their spumes often speckle the pew-

BADMINTON

Hall and Butler put game in the picture

By A Special Correspondent

The final of the Carlsberg English national championship ships - to which Darren Hall and Steve Butler - was such a good vehicle for yesterday's Channel 4 television coverage that the entrepreneurs immediately announced further plans.

Walker International, the promotions and management company which has signed Hall and Butler as well as 10 other leading British players this season, promising to boost incomes and television exposure, have now signed two more.

They are Andy Goode and Gillian Gowers, two of England's leading doubles players. Both should shortly enjoy a rise in earnings as doubles events have been added to the world circuit.

Goode beat Butler in the national final two years ago, while Gowers surprised many people by reaching the final of the British Airways Masters in October. To the process she beat the European champion, Helen Troke, who on Wednesday night won her first national title by outplaying the title holder, Fiona Elliott, for the last of only six points.

Hall's record is 15-5, 9-15, 18-17, over Butler an hour or so before should have convinced people, if anything is ever going to, that this sport can make enjoyable television. It

VOLLEYBALL

Unbeaten Spark are out on their own

By Paul Harrison

With the demise of Hillingdon Ladies as a competitive force, Spark have established themselves as the new force in the Royal Bank women's league in England. Their current dominance of the scene was emphasized at the weekend when they defeated Ashcombe, their nearest rivals.

Spark are undefeated in the league and have also reached the quarter-finals of the Royal Bank Cup. How much their renaissance owes to Hillingdon's absence from the English scene will now never be known.

"We are very disappointed that Hillingdon are not there this season," Martin Bart, the Spark coach, said. "It would have been a very good thing for English volleyball if they had been there, and it would have been very interesting for us to see who was the stronger."

It now seems likely that Hillingdon will not grace English volleyball again. Plans to play in European tournaments have not worked out for the club, mainly due to the crowded season on the Conti-

Lambourn's winning family double

The immaculate appearance of Rhonehurst and its adjacent stables proclaim to the outside world that Oliver Sherwood means business. The well kept drive is flanked by freshly painted white railings as you drive past the newly built boxes and pull up by the tall red-brick house.

Upper Lambourn is the golden valley of sheeprearing. Fulke Walwyn and Fred Winter are but two of the new trainer's neighbours, and a little further up the road to Ashbury lies the home of Jenny Siman, the hand of Burrough Hill Ltd, Mandarlin, Mill House, The Dikler and Midnight Court are other Cheltenham Gold Cup winners to have had their final gallop on the downs above the village.

Brisk, alert and courteous, Oliver, the 30-year-old son of Nat Sherwood, a prosperous Essex farmer, has spent 12 years grooming himself for his trade. His right-hand man is his brother, Simon, champion amateur rider in the past two seasons and now duelling with Peter Scudamore and Steve Smith-Eccles in the race for the professional jockeys' title.

They make a formidable combination. Oliver himself rode 90 winners during his 10 years with Arthur Moore and Winter. "I suppose the highlights were winning the Sun Alliance on Venture To Cognac. And I also landed the treble of the Cheltenham and Liverpool Foxhunters and the Horse and Hound Cup at Stratford on Avon Ralls Rambler." Like his brother, Sherwood senior was also champion amateur in the 1978-79 season.

The story of Venture To Cognac's racing career has run parallel with that of the trainer. "I bought him over from Ireland when I joined Fred. Luckily we'd been beaten a head in a novice hurdle over there, or he wouldn't have qualified for the Sun Alliance," Sherwood said. Now 13-years-old, this high-class animal has never quite fulfilled his early potential, due to a variety of training problems. But two seasons ago he beat Spartan Missile easily in the Cheltenham Foxhunters and is now back in training for another



Oppidan (right), seen here challenging Midnight Court, is earmarked for Cheltenham's festival meeting

programme of hunter-chases. Both brothers went to school at Radley. Oliver is perhaps the more fanatical sportsman of the pair. "I've got to be really sick," he went on, "as I only got one O level. But seriously I was too busy with my sport. I was in the rugger 15 for three years and was also mad on cricket, rackets and athletics." At one point he even considered a career in soccer, but the idea was knocked on the head by Michael Gluckstein, the chairman of Charlton Athletic who told him that "the chance of a public schoolboy making a living in league football is about 100-1."

After leaving school he spent a year in Australia, six months with his father, who at that time was training a few horses under permit on a farm he had bought near Banbury and then about the same time with Gavin Pritchard-Gordon at Newmarket. "Gavin's wife, Coral, then recommended me to Arthur Moore. I spent four years over there and had the greatest fun. I was a sort of glorified head lad, box driver and everything. We're still the greatest friends. Arthur is godfather to my 18-month-old daughter and also my

chief contact. He found The Breener for me," the trainer said.

The brother's parents had still young "Mother moved to Warwickshire and became friendly with John and Wendy Thorne so when I heard that Nicky Henderson was going to marry their daughter, Diana, and set up on his own, I started to pester him to recommend me as his replacement as assistant to Fred. I went there quaking with fright, but luckily we hit it off from the word go. It was the year Midnight Court won the Gold Cup."

About his six years with the eight times champion trainer Sherwood says simply: "I owe everything to Fred. And also to Arthur and my father."

And what better schoolmaster could a prospective trainer have had than the gruff and kindly Winter, whose bark is so much worse than his bite.

"The decision to set up on his own was taken early in 1984, three years after he had married Winter's daughter, Denise. Fred just looked at me one day and said, 'Isn't it about time you started training?' The idea both excited and frightened me but I realised he was right."

After protracted negotiations a price was settled for Rhonehurst and it's 55 acres. "We started with nine horses but by the end of the season we had 25. I've had fantastic support, particularly from Fred's owners, David Bott sent me The Breener. When the building work is finished I'll have room for 47 and that's all I want."

Simon is 27 and came later into racing. "The idea has always been in me to take over father's farm in Essex," he said. "I've spent four years at Cirencester and got my two diplomas. But at the end of last season the stewards told me that I would have to turn professional if I wanted to go on. So I did and will go

on as long as I'm enjoying it."

Simon shares a house at East Garston, about four miles from Lambourn, with Mark Bradstock, Fulke Walwyn's assistant and Sarah Lawrence, John Oaksey's daughter.

The Breener gave Oliver Sherwood his first ever winner as a trainer at Newbury in November, 1984. After two further victories on the same track he then finished third to Harry Hastings in the Waterford Crystal Su-

per on Jimmy. He is a decent horse.

After a good start to the season, the stable has been rather quiet recently. "It's all part of the campaign," he went on, "it's a long season and if you want to have a horse fresh for Cheltenham, you've got to give them a break in January."

Mustard and Oppidan are two of the stable probabilities for the big meeting. Unfortunately, Drive on Jimmy injured himself when falling behind Bolands Cross at Ascot on Wednesday and is now out of action.

The trainer is well aware that both he and his brother come from what most people will call a privileged background. "I've been very lucky to have had so much help," Oliver says, "but the chance is there and I'm going to grab it with both hands. But at the moment I'm only a little fish in a big pond."

Simon is also enjoying life to the full. "Luckily I got a good start to the season with both John Jenkins and Oliver being in tremendous form. Things have been a bit quiet lately, but they are just starting to warm up again."

The phrase "to work hard and play hard" may well be a hackneyed expression but it certainly applies to the Sherwood brothers. Both men are looking forward with relish to the first fortnight in June. "David Nicholson is taking a racing cricket eleven over to Kenya and both Simon and I are going. Two years ago we went to Barbados. There will be 25 in the party, 14 players and their wives and girlfriends. We've got five matches arranged, two safaris and a day's racing in Nairobi, all by courtesy of the Kenya Jockey Club.

It certainly promises to be quite a party, with such fun-loving jockeys as Steve Smith Eccles and Graham Bradley already booked for the team as well.

Bleak outlook

There will be no racing in Britain today and the prospects for a resumption tomorrow look bleak. Today's planned fixtures at Newbury, Ayr and Sedgfield have been lost due to heavy snow and frost.

The Newbury stewards found the track unfit for racing yesterday because of "lying snow" and they will hold an inspection at 2.45 today to determine the prospects for tomorrow's Schweppes meeting.

At Ayr, frost is the problem. Yesterday's card was called off, and with more frost forecast the stewards will inspect at 11.30am.

Catterick's chances are described as "remote." The inspection will take place at 10.00am. Unsettled weather is expected to persist at 12 noon.

Tomorrow's Irish meeting at Leopardstown features the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle. And with no frost in the ground hopes are high that the meeting will go ahead.

premise Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham

Sadly, this promising young horse's career ended with a fatal fall in the race won by Voo Trappe at Cheltenham in December, after a spectacular first appearance over fences at Newbury the previous month.

"Mr Bott was marvellous," the trainer continued, "that happened on the Friday and on Saturday he was negotiating in Ireland to buy Drive

Michael Seely

YACHTING

Australians are the favourites

From Barry Pickhall, Fremantle

Australia II and her larger sister Australia III, the two AIAO Bond syndicate America's Cup contenders start as joint favourites to win the 12 metre World championship which gets under way off Fremantle today.

Not only are these two Ben Lexcen designs competing on their own waters but the two crews have shown during last Sunday's practice race that they are quite prepared to race as a team to squeeze out of the competition in particular Australia II, the 12 metre representing the New York Yacht Club.

Such tactics are against the rules but are very hard to prove, so the pressure will be on the American skipper, John Kallis, who came so close to defeating Denis Conner for the right to defend the America's Cup three years ago, to outwit rivals' outcall his Australian

Trumpetings of the moguls

Furthermore, the game has never been held in greater favour than it is at the moment. The horrors of the spring, followed by the self-interested trumpetings of football moguls throughout the country, have seen it, in fact, unquestionably, time to call the cavalry.

Satchi & Satchi became involved in football by acquiring Spurs as a client. A tiny agency, it has since become an important and the FA Cup is sacred, but the rest we can do without." But football's 6-man team seem based on multiplying the number of matches played again and then again, to wrench the last drop of money from the footballer's pocket in the most invidious way possible. "Scarcely value has been lost, and scarcity has a real value," Fynn said.

But even without shaves of football, Arsenal v Spurs and Spurs v Manchester United are events of national significance. Spurs v West Brom is not, unless it is in the FA Cup. On the other hand, Exeter v Plymouth is an event of local significance while Plymouth v Wigan has neither local nor national significance.

"There are too many sportsman matches and too many sportsman competitions," said Fynn. "The League is important, and the FA Cup is sacred, but the rest we can do without." But football's 6-man team seem based on multiplying the number of matches played again and then again, to wrench the last drop of money from the footballer's pocket in the most invidious way possible. "Scarcely value has been lost, and scarcity has a real value," Fynn said.

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The balance of power

But the old structure of the league keeps the balance of power with the weak. The voting board gives one vote to each first and second division club, and eight more shared by the rest. If the weak clubs wish to block an amendment, they need just six second division votes to work with the lower divisions (all proposals require a 75 per cent majority to get through). However, the mighty will not stand for this forever. They will not accept financial trouble simply because the hardpockets of the world are holding on to their coat tails.

"Football needs a Ueberroth," Fynn said. Ueberroth is now commissioner of baseball in America. Fynn believes that the game must be run as a commission for football, a marketing man to restore financial sense to the game, and quickly. "What football needs," Fynn said, "is not evolution but revolution."

Call for a Ueberroth to give the game a 'super' future

Simon Barnes

find out what it is the consumer wants," he said. "But with football, nobody knows. There has been no complete recent survey. Football neither knows who people do not go to matches, nor why they do. The sport doesn't know what the consumer wants or how to set about providing it."

But even without shaves of statistics, Satchi's have some answers. Shooting from the hip and looking at the game with the hard eyes of the marketing man, they have some tough answers to put to football. After all, Peter Ueberroth, sport's marketing man supreme, turned the Olympic Games from millstone to money-maker.

The key phrase - Satchi's are hot on key phrases - is "the event-like nature of football". Arsenal v Spurs and Spurs v Manchester United are events of national significance. Spurs v West Brom is not, unless it is in the FA Cup. On the other hand, Exeter v Plymouth is an event of local significance while Plymouth v Wigan has neither local nor national significance.

"There are too many sportsman matches and too many sportsman competitions," said Fynn. "The League is important, and the FA Cup is sacred, but the rest we can do without." But football's 6-man team seem based on multiplying the number of matches played again and then again, to wrench the last drop of money from the footballer's pocket in the most invidious way possible. "Scarcely value has been lost, and scarcity has a real value," Fynn said.

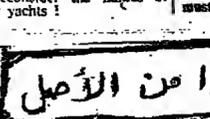
But even without shaves of football, Arsenal v Spurs and Spurs v Manchester United are events of national significance. Spurs v West Brom is not, unless it is in the FA Cup. On the other hand, Exeter v Plymouth is an event of local significance while Plymouth v Wigan has neither local nor national significance.

Call for a Ueberroth to give the game a 'super' future

At the bottom level of the League, he said that regional divisions were the answer, following the pattern of virtually all major European nations. He has various possible formats for regionalization, which could include bringing in the Gok League clubs. Divisions would be equal status, smaller and local. The aim is to turn the Football League from a ladder into a pyramid: a pyramid with a very broad base. "Parochialism must be the rubric of the lower divisions," Fynn said.

The natural extension of this is for the regional winners to play off, and the eventual winner to move into the national second division. But admission into the top section of the pyramid, the super league itself, would not be dependent on the simple winning of an annual competition.

In truth, the super league is already well on its way. It has been here since home clubs started to keep their own gate receipts. Television strengthens this by concentrating on events of national significance, while matches between the promoted super league clubs.



PERSONAL COLUMNS

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

RENTALS

A time for flowers.

More than words can say.

BIRTH, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

ANNOUNCEMENTS published in the name and surname of the sender. They may be sent to THE TIMES, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Telephone 01-477 3000. For a full list of conditions, please refer to the back of this page.

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WILLIAMS The 3rd son of Mr and Mrs J. Williams of 15, The Green, London, was born on 15th January 1986. He weighs 10lb 10oz and is 19 inches long. He is a very healthy baby and is expected to be discharged on 22nd February 1986.

ASTON MARTIN 1965 Aston Martin V8 Vantage 2000 cc, 16000 miles, with leather interior, alloy wheels, and sunroof. Price £20,000. Tel: 01-235 1127.

URGENTLY REQUIRED A person with a good knowledge of the English language and a good understanding of the business world. Tel: 01-235 1127.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM POLYTECHNIC

Faculty of the Built Environment

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE

Salary Scale: Head of Department (Grade V) £18,615 - £20,511

Further details and application forms to be returned by 28th February 1986 from: The Personnel Officer, City of Birmingham Polytechnic, 'F' Block, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 5UJ. Telephone: 01-255 9193, extension 2152/6.

GEORGE KNIGHT The Luttrell Arms Chelsea, SW3. Tel: 01-589 2123.

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BIRTHS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Synod backs cities report

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

With only minor reservations, the Anglican report highly critical of government policy in the inner cities was adopted as official policy by the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday. An attempt to distance the church from the more political and controversial aspects of the report was defeated. One frequent criticism was taken on board, however: that it dealt incompletely with the more specifically spiritual parts of the church's function.

There will therefore be further examination of the opportunities for the church to fulfil its evangelistic mission in inner city areas, which the synod asked its standing committee to take in hand.

The report, published in December, castigated the Government for allegedly cutting the level of government spending in inner city areas, and proposed a massive transfer of financial resources to the less prosperous parts of Britain.

Its publication brought attacks from government sources for being left-wing, even Marxist. Although the Archbishop of West Ham, the Ven. Peter Dawes, said in proposing it that this did not mean endorsement of every line, a member for Norwich diocese, Mr. Paul Rippon, moved the exclusion of the section concerning government policy. But this was well defeated.

Yesterday's debate was largely about details. There was an approximately even division concerning the report's proposed Commission for Black Anglican Concerns, the one suggestion opposed by the synod's standing committee. An amendment supporting the idea was narrowly defeated.

The synod accepted in principle proposals for the establishment of a £10 million Church Urban Fund.

Agony in Colombia wins photography award



"The Agony of Omaira", taken in Colombia by French photographer Frank Fourrier of Contact Press Images of New York, won the 1985 picture of the year award in the World Press Photo competition

Only skiers gain as snow brings road chaos

By Ronald Faux
Ski resorts in Scotland suffered an embarrassment of snow yesterday, while in other parts of the country it brought confusion to the roads.

The falls were so heavy roads to the Cairngorm slopes out of Aviemore and at the Devil's Elbow in Glen Shee, near Blairgowrie, were completely blocked. The Lecht ski centre on the Cock Bridge, Tomintoul Road was manned by an automatic voice on the telephone warning that all access roads had been closed by drifting snow and were unlikely to reopen that day.

On Cairngorm about 1,000 resolute skiers took their cars as close to the slopes as possible and then trudged to the ski lifts.

The mountains were thickly blanketed with snow in contrast with the Christmas holidays when skiers had little more than their memories of the sport to enjoy.

In the morning rush hour motorways in the South-east were worst hit, with lane closures and speed restrictions on all principal routes to London. The Automobile Association said that the worst congestion was on the M11 south-bound carriageway between Northampton and Harpenden, where ice and accidents brought traffic to a standstill from junction 15 to junction 9.

The A6 was closed by accidents between South

Mimms and London Colney, in Hertfordshire.

In Essex black ice caused a series of accidents and blocked the A12 and A127. The M4 elevated section in west London was closed by an accident on the ice, and in the Thames Valley the M40 was reduced to a single lane by snow up to five inches deep.

In the Midlands snow and ice gripped 12 counties, closing steep sections of the A34, and bringing out the snow ploughs at Birmingham International and East Midlands airports. Many high routes in Derbyshire and north Staffordshire were closed.

The M62 was for a time the only passable route across

the Pennines. The A1 in Northumbria was only negotiable with extreme care.

In the west of England principal routes across the Cotswolds were closed for lorries.

The AA criticized lack of salting and gritting in some areas, particularly on the M1 and a Department of Transport spokesman admitted that Bedfordshire County Council had miscalculated by withdrawing gritting teams at 11 pm on Wednesday night. Although they were called out again at 4 am it was already too late because the newly fallen snow had already been hard packed into a surface like an ice rink.

Although temperatures were little lower than minus three degrees centigrade overnight the Weather Centre said yesterday that it would stay cold for several days with persistent frost and more snow showers, particularly near the east coast.

● **BIELLA, Italy:** Two mountaineers who disappeared during a snow storm in the Italian Alps 10 days ago survived by sheltering in a hole they dug in the snow, according to the police (Reuters reports).

Alessandro Benza and Roberto Miglietti were caught in a blizzard while climbing in the mountains near Verceil, north-west Italy.

Letter from Manila

Hope and fear in 'foreign meddlers'

To President Ferdinand Marcos they are "foreign meddlers". But to the opposition camp foreign correspondents covering the surrealistic presidential election they are stalwarts of hope for a reasonably fair test of voters' opinions.

The problem for Mr Marcos is that foreign newspapers introduce an element of realism into a country which is no longer sure what is real and what is imaginary about its leader after 20 years of his stewardship.

Foreign newspapers have broken the stories which have been the principal issues in the campaign: the faking of Mr Marcos's wartime record as leader of the Maharlika "free men" guerrilla force against the Japanese, and allegations of fortunes stashed abroad not only in cash but in property.

Until 1984 Filipinos would probably never have learned anything of these reports, but now there is a vigorous opposition press which gleefully reprints every uncomplimentary report it can get its hands on. Some of the president's journalist cronies take it rather hard: one columnist wondered in print if the American journalists might not be bringing a kind of journalistic Aids.

But the foreign journalists can hardly be ignored. There are already about 1,000 if you include the American networks, all of which have at least four camera teams in the country at fabulous cost. But not even the American networks can match the expenditure of the presidential campaign. The children of sugar workers may be starving to death on the island of Negros Occidental, but Mrs Imelda Marcos sees nothing incongruous in wearing an awesome diamond ring in some of the country's more backward areas. The cost of operating the presidential "air force" alone would transform the lives of thousands of her husband's subjects.

When the President made a foray into Mindanao last week the Davao airport looked as though it were staging an exhibition of business jets. Mr Marcos arrived in the presidential Fokker F28 twin-jet airliner, named Maharlika after his now-discredited guerrilla unit. Mrs Marcos used a more stylishly feminine white Dassault Falcon Executive jet, "Bong-Bong", the President's son, who also happens to be governor of the family's home province of Ilocos Norte, came in a Learjet.

Mr Benjamin Romualdez, Ambassador to the United States and a relative of Mrs Marcos, came in a 12-seater turbo-prop Beechcraft, and the US Congress is wondering what happened to the controversial batch of Sikorsky S76 helicopters bought

to help to tackle the Communist insurgency, four of them are now in the tasteful pale blue and white of the presidential flight.

For overland travel, Air Force Hercules transports bring in "his-and-hers" bullet-proof Buick limousines.

The value of the vice-president, Mr Arturo Tolentino, to the campaign may be gauged from the fact that he is allocated an old Philippine Air Force twin turbo-prop transport.

Mrs Corason Aquino, the opposition candidate, claims to have visited most of the electoral areas, usually in a business plane leased by a Filipino corporation. But what was until her pilots suddenly started having problems with the Government licensing authorities.

You could taste the flavour of her campaign when she addressed the Philippines Chamber of Commerce over lunch in a five-star hotel. It came in a box and consisted of a hard-boiled egg, a meat sandwich and a banana.

David Watts

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Anne, President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visits Aquascutum, Hemei Hempstead, and later, as immediate Past Master of the Parviers Company, attends the Court Ladies dinner, Attolenders Hall, 7.20.
Prince Michael of Kent, as President of the Kennel Club, attends Crufts Dog Show, 10.
Exhibitions in progress
Art - pictorial traditions in Britain and America: Sills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh; Tues to Sat 12.30 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (ends Feb 8).
Walking and Falling - A labyrinth of dreams in paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture by various artists: Kettle's Yard Gallery, Castle Street, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 12.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends Feb 9).
One for the pot - potting over the centuries: The Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Road, Stirling; Wed to Sun 2 to 5, Sat 10.30 to 5, closed Mon and Tues (ends Feb 9).
From AI to Medway - photographs by Paul Graham: Ramsdale Library Gallery, Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate; Mon to Wed 9.30 to 6, Thurs to Sat 9.30 to 5, Fri 9.30 to 8, closed Sun (ends Feb 13).
Sketches and drawings by R P Bonington: Castle Museum, The Castle, Nottingham; Mon to Sun 10 to 4.45 (ends Feb 15).
Music
School's concert: Great Hall, Goldsmith's College, Lewisham Way, SE14, 2.
Recital by the Guildhall Siring Ensemble, St Anne's, Gresham Street, 10.
Recital by John Peters and Martin Litton (drums, vocals and piano): Riverside Cafe,

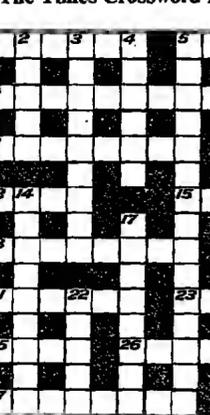
Royal Festival Hall, 8.

Organ recital by Peter Goodman, City Hall, 12.30.
Concert by the Scottish Early Music Consort, Henry Wood Hall, SNO Centre, Claremont Street, Glasgow, 8.
Schulze organ concert with David Hickin (organ), Ellesmere College, 7.50.
Piano recital by Liqra Ziv-Li, The King's School, Ottery St Mary, 7.30.

Last chance to see
Trevor Stubbs: retrospective: University Building, Parkinson, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, 10 to 5.

Talks, lectures
The drum beats in the field: musical reflections of war given by John Arming, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Market Square Preston, 12.30.
Shostakovich's first symphony: Arts Council Gallery, Belfast, 6.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,963



ACROSS
1 Coloured girl (6).
5 Waste Bob's time messing about (4-4).
9 Smart Aleck, a brainy chap (6, 4).
10 Incomplete national Oag (14).
11 Congregational enthusiastic in chum (14).
12 This is carried by runners using dispatch, they say (16).
13 Mother, I am hurt! (6).
15 Babies are often indignant (2, 2, 4).
18 Go back to cover, traitor (18).
19 Sound supports for a flower (14).
21 A poet who wrote about love on a ship (16).
23 Forward in style, backward in story (8).
25 What we pay for transport and food (4).
26 As ordered, give her two gross (10).
27 Domestic, carpenter or nursery-man? (8).
28 A requirement, perhaps, for the rest of the night shift? (13).

DOWN
2 No fugitive relative (2-3).
3 One of the company is a peevish fellow (9).
4 Fix routine up to produce vegetable (6).
6 To start a voyage causes trouble (4, 4).
7 Chap's standing on his head in the mud (5).
8 Skinny, toothless what's-his-name (9).
14 Vaguely indicate a stupid charge (9).
16 Asceticism could be, it's true, always around (9).
17 Bowl mate in game (8).
20 Found a home for a good man to love and get married (16).
22 A light at right angles (5).
24 Alias for a Scot, about to appear yellow (5).

Top Films

The top box-office films in London:
1 Rocky IV
2 A Chorus Line
3 Back to the Future
4 Kiss of the Spider Woman
5 Teen Wolf
6 Death in a French Garden
7 The Untouchables
8 My Beautiful Laundrette
9 Year of the Dragon

Top video rentals

1 Rambo: First Blood 2
2 Ghostbusters
3 Gremlins
4 Beverly Hills Cop
5 The Terminator
6 Neverending Story
7 Wizards of the Lost Kingdom
8 Into the Night
9 The Last Starfighters
10 Runaway

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.96
Belgium Sfr	71.20	80.00
Canada \$	1.29	1.36
Denmark Kr	12.80	12.10
France Ffr	7.25	7.40
Germany DM	16.58	16.20
Greenland Dkr	3.48	3.28
Hong Kong \$	27.00	22.00
India Rupee	11.15	10.85
Japan Yen	237.50	224.00
Netherlands Gld	37.00	283.00
Norway Kr	13.88	13.20
Portugal Esc	202.50	212.00
South Africa R	2.58	2.50
Spain Ptas	218.00	204.00
Sweden Sfr	13.92	13.20
Switzerland Fr	2.82	2.74
USA \$	2.62	2.58
Yugoslavia Dnr	80.00	80.00

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be lifted today at approximately 12.35pm.

Food prices

Consumption of mushrooms, a fungus rich in Vitamin B, has risen by 45 per cent in the past five years. Vitamin B is a rich mineral source, particularly of potassium, and the mushroom is high in fibre and low in calories. British and Dutch mushrooms range from 35p to 55p a half-pound, depending on size.

Vegetable prices have not been affected by the weather. Brussel sprouts are excellent, although a little dearer this week at 22p to 26p per pound. Spring-cresses, 18 - 30p per pound. Primo cabbage, 10p-30p a pound, green and red cabbages, 60p-85p per pound and broccoli, 60p-80p per pound are all good buys. Potatoes are 7-19p a pound, according to variety. Celery, 30-46p a head, cucumber, 60-90p each; iceberg lettuce, 65-95p a head, are best salads. Spanish, Canary Islands, and Moroccan tomatoes are 45p-60p a pound, but watch quality.

Anniversaries

Births: Saint Thomas More (canonized 1935), London, 1478; Charles Dickens, Portsmouth, 1812.
Deaths: William Byrd, musician, London, 1772; Alan Raddcliffe, writer of the Gothic novel, London, 1823; Daniel Fraunce, Prime Minister of South Africa, 1948-54; Stellenbosch, Cape Province, 1929.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Safety at Sea Bill, Crown Immunity Bill and other Bills, second reading.

Roads

The Midlands: M5: Both carriageways between junctions 4 (A38 Birmingham SW and Bromsgrove) and 5 (A38 Rothwell), reduced to one lane and occasional closures. A39: Reopens at three separate locations between Shrewsbury and Ludlow; each with temporary lights.
Wales and West: M4: East-bound hard shoulder closed between junctions 22 and 23 (Chepstow/Magor); outside lane closed westbound, A377: Road widening in Bonhay Road, Exeter; temporary traffic lights.
The North: M2: Various contraflow at junction 32 on the contraflow construction of new slip road at the junction with A19 and B1432 N and S of Merton Flyover, Durham.
Scotland: A77: Width restriction on roundabout at the A7119/A738 junction E of Ayr; A9: Single lane traffic with lights at Frieswick, Cathoos.

Weather forecast

A very cold easterly flow covers most areas.
6 am to midnight
London, E, W Midlands, N Wales, NW, central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, scattered light snow showers; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (34F).
SE England, central S England, S Wales: Rather cloudy, snow showers mainly near coasts; wind E, fresh or strong; max temp 10C (34F).
East Angles, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: Sunny intervals, snow showers mainly near coasts; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (34F).
Channel Islands, SW England: Mostly cloudy, snow, wind E, fresh or strong; max temp 10C (34F).
Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Moray Firth, Shetland: Sunny intervals, mainly dry; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (34F).
Outlook for the weekend: Continuing very cold with severe frost possible in places. Snow showers near North Sea coasts.

Lighting-up time

London 5.31 pm to 6.58 pm
Bristol 5.40 pm to 7.06 pm
Cardiff 5.45 pm to 7.24 pm
Manchester 5.55 pm to 7.12 pm
Penzance 5.56 pm to 7.18 pm

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C. Cloud: T, sun, rain, sun, sun.
Belfast 1 1.34 Glasgow 1 2.36
London 1 3.28 Manchester 1 3.28
Newcastle 1 3.34 Jersey 1 3.37
Penzance 1 3.30 London 1 3.37
Edinburgh 1 3.34 Newcastle 1 3.34
Sheffield 1 3.37
Bournemouth 1 3.37
Preston 1 3.37
Reading 1 3.37
Sheff 1 3.37
Sunderland 1 3.37
Tottenham 1 3.37
Wolverhampton 1 3.37
Wrexham 1 3.37

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily share prices in the Portfolio section of the Times. Add these together to determine your total profit or loss. If your total profit is positive, you have made a profit. If it is negative, you have a loss. No share prices are accepted outside those listed in the Portfolio section.

Snow Reports

Depth (cm)	U	Piste	Conditions	Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)
AUSTRIA						
Kitzbuehel	55	180	fair	varied	fair	fine
Lower south facing slopes	icy					
Solden	90	220	good	crust	good	fine
All runs good						
FRANCE						
Flaine	120	360	good	varied	good	fine
Ice forming off piste						
Les Arcs	120	220	good	varied	good	fine
Good on all runs						
SWITZERLAND						
St Moritz	150	230	good	crust	good	fine
Excellent piste skiing						
Gstaad	40	135	good	heavy	good	sun
Good piste skiing						
St Moritz generally very good						
Fantastic conditions						
Saas Fee	130	150	good	varied	good	sun
Perfect skiing						
Verbier	50	80	good	heavy	fair	fine
Good skiing everywhere						
Villars	60	160	good	crust	good	fine
Pistes firm, off piste crust						
Wengen	50	125	good	varied	good	fog
icy patches on lower slopes						
Zermatt	120	225	good	varied	good	fine

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High Tides

YODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.03	6.3	12.36	6.5
Aberdeen	5.47	11.2	12.01	11.8
Armagh	9.33	3.3	10.36	3.2
Belfast	5.32	10.8	5.04	11.0
Cardiff	11.57	4.8	11.34	4.9
Devonport	9.48	5.8	10.20	6.1
Dover	11.57	4.8	11.34	4.9
Falmouth	9.01	6.2	9.35	6.5
Glasgow	10.25	3.6	10.50	3.5
Harwich	9.01	6.2	9.35	6.5
Hayneshead	11.00	3.7	11.18	3.8
Howth	4.33	8.2	5.04	8.1
Liverpool	9.53	5.7	10.28	5.7
Lowestoft	6.15	2.3	8.09	2.3
London	10.30	6.3	10.30	6.3
Millwall Haven	4.52	6.3	10.22	6.4
Newquay	3.45	8.4	4.14	8.4
Oban	9.57	3.3	10.40	3.3
Portsmouth	5.24	1.9	10.28	1.9
Portsmouth	9.57	3.3	10.40	3.3
Shoreham	9.48	5.7	10.25	5.7
Southampton	9.29	4.2	10.09	4.4
Swansea	4.59	8.1	5.30	8.6
Tees	2.18	4.8	2.33	5.1
Wilton-on-Tyne	10.24	3.9	10.49	3.8

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